





**STRASSLER CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES**

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STRASSLER
CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
STUDIES

AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

2010 – 2011
YEAR END REPORT





"Whoever fails to increase knowledge, decreases knowledge."

—The Wisdom of the Sages

Dear Friends:

“If I were to wish for anything,” the nineteenth-century Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard mused, “I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential—for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible.” Kierkegaard would have felt at home at the Strassler Center. It is with an eye to the possible that we teach, research, and engage in public service. Our scholarly work inspires us to think anew about the world in which we live, and to which we seek to give shape.

And it is precisely our “passionate sense of the potential” that fuels the international summit we will hold this month. Tapping the skills and expertise of activists, policy makers, students, and scholars, *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo* builds upon powerful synergies to forge a path forward. *Informed Activism* channels multiple strengths—in the academy, in our nation’s capital, and on the ground in Congo—to confront an urgent problem: ever escalating, deadly mass violence in Congo. We take Eleanor Roosevelt’s exhortation to heart: “We must do that which we think we cannot.”

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Forging alliances to effect change is one form of igniting potential. The scholarship of our outstanding doctoral students is another. Sarah Cushman, who held the Steven Spielberg Fellowship for Graduate Studies in Holocaust History, defended her dissertation on *The Women of Birkenau* in September (2010). Now the Director of Youth Education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County (NY), she brings her knowledge and scholarship to thousands of school children and their teachers. Her colleagues celebrated her success, knowing their turn will follow. A dozen are now in the field, researching and writing. Another four defended their dissertation proposals in spring. And two have moved from coursework to studying for their oral comprehensive examinations. Among those in the initial phase of their studies, engaged with classes, is our first student in comparative genocide in Africa. Stern Fellow Sara Brown researches women perpetrators in Rwanda and Congo, and her investigations in Africa this summer took her across the social spectrum.

All of the Center students have embarked upon significant projects that challenge accepted ideas and offer fresh insights. The value of their work is reflected in the prestigious, competitive awards they have earned: Fulbright Fellowships, Claims Conference Fellowships, the Black Sea Link Fellowship, Fellowships from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, the German Historical Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the National Institute for the History of the Liberation Movement in Italy.

The students come to the Center from Europe, North America, and the Middle East with a shared purpose and passion. And thus an Armenian from Lebanon studies side-by-side with a Turk from Turkey; both driven to learn about the past; to right historical injustices; to change the conversation today about the Armenian Genocide.

We are nothing if not ambitious. But then, as our Massachusetts compatriot Ralph Waldo Emerson noted some 150 years ago, “Without ambition one starts nothing.” And he continued with an observation we all know to be true. “Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it.”

We are ambitious. And we work to forward our aims. Our goal is to deploy scholarship to identify solutions to problems that stem from past genocides, mechanisms for intervention in unfolding mass violence today, and systems to prevent future genocides. That is the prize.

We need your help. Please give as generously as you can.

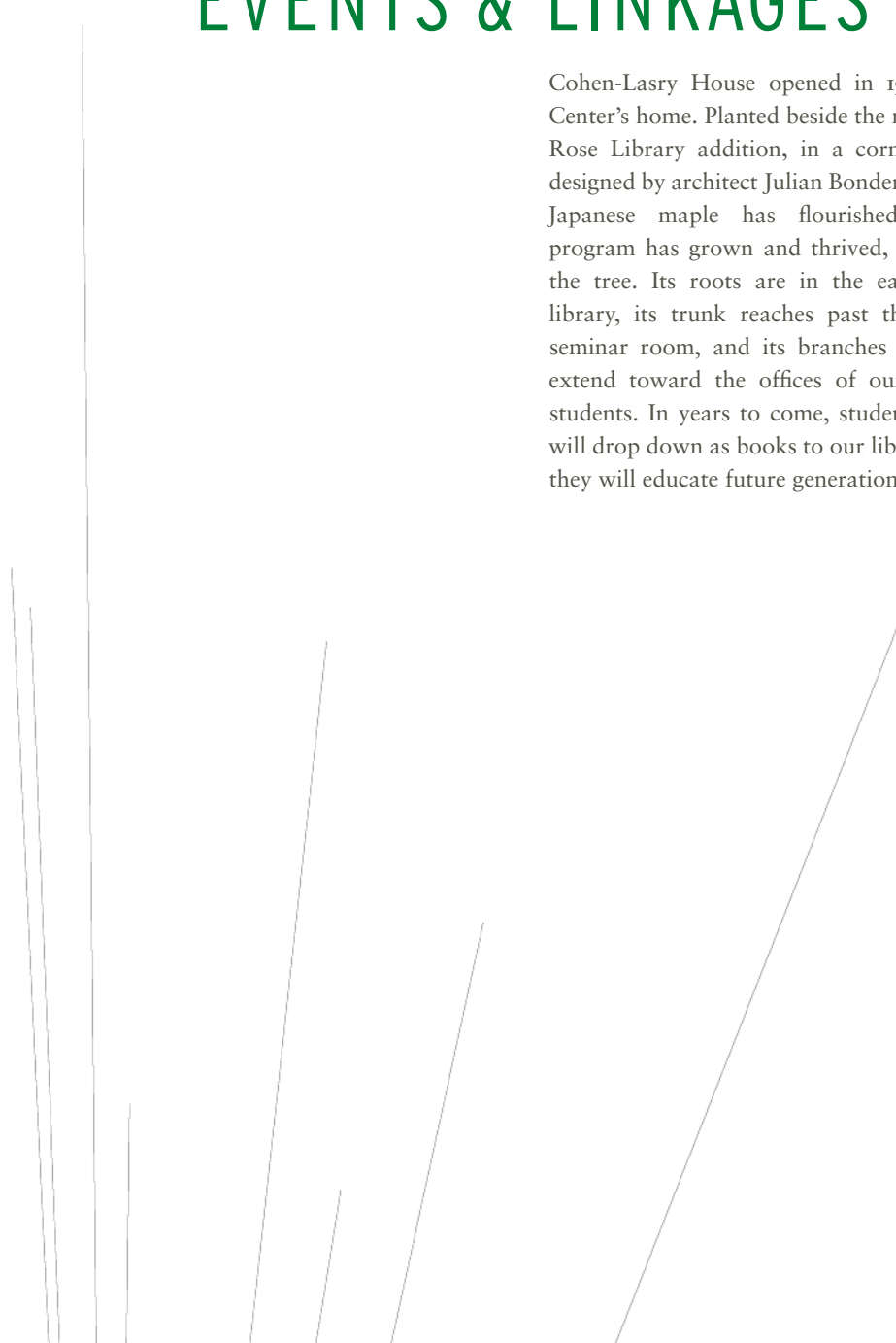


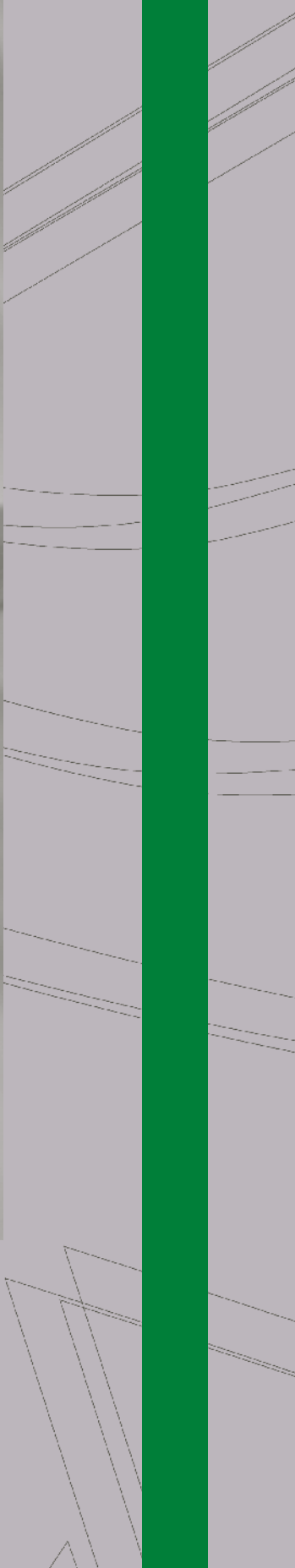
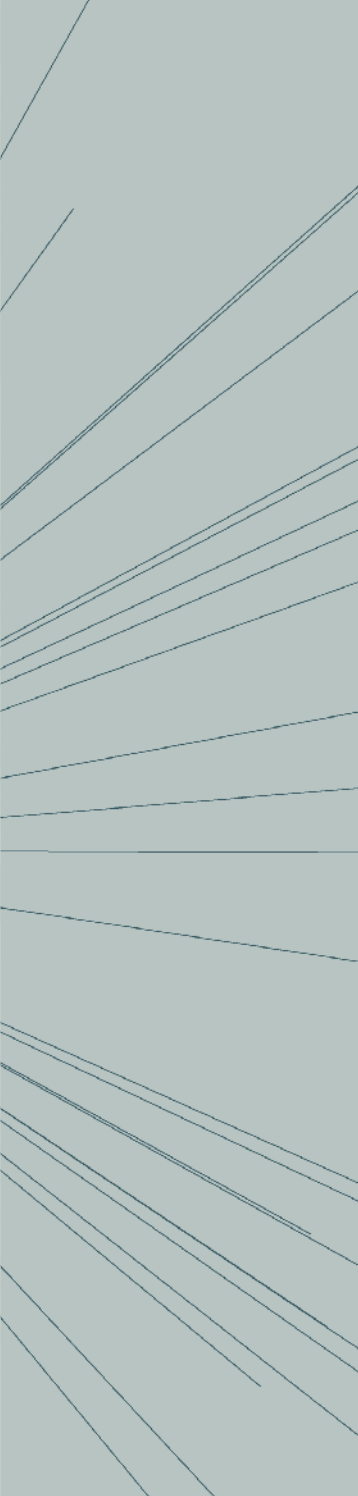
Deborah Dwork
Rose Professor of Holocaust History
Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



EVENTS & LINKAGES

Cohen-Lasry House opened in 1999 as the Center's home. Planted beside the magnificent Rose Library addition, in a corner cleverly designed by architect Julian Bonder, a graceful Japanese maple has flourished. As the program has grown and thrived, so too has the tree. Its roots are in the earth of the library, its trunk reaches past the Center's seminar room, and its branches and leaves extend toward the offices of our graduate students. In years to come, student research will drop down as books to our library where they will educate future generations.





NAAMA HAVIV, “ON THE GROUND IN CONGO: ACTION TO END THE WORLD’S DEADLIEST CONFLICT”

29 SEPTEMBER 2010

“Our students’ accomplishments are a source of pride,” Professor Shelly Tenenbaum began her introduction of Naama Haviv ’00, MA (ABD) ’06, her former student and the current assistant director of the Los Angeles-based, anti-genocide organization Jewish World Watch (JWW). As a Clark undergraduate, Haviv took the first *Genocide* course Professor Tenenbaum offered; she was an early HGS concentrator; she received one of the first HGS undergraduate stipends to intern at the Shoah Foundation; and as a Ph.D. student, she served as a teaching assistant in Tenenbaum’s *Genocide* course. “Naama was so exceptional in terms of her teaching abilities and knowledge,” Tenenbaum continued, “that she returned the next year to co-teach the class.”

Back on campus to deliver the Strassler Center’s *Especially for Students* lecture, Haviv’s dynamic and informative presentation merited the complimentary introduction. The Rose Library filled with student activists eager to learn about the ongoing mass violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In November 2009, Haviv traveled to Congo on a JWW fact finding mission. Showing her own photos of the lush and beautiful landscape, Haviv noted that Congo should be a thriving, tourist destination. The country is richly resourced with valuable minerals, unique flora, rare fauna, and fertile soil. Yet, these assets have been a curse since the Belgian King Leopold owned rather than colonized Congo in the 19th century. During the 30-year Mobutu regime, the government exploited Congo’s resources at the expense of the population and pursued a policy of deliberate non-development.

Since 1996, 5.4 million Congolese have died from war related violence, displacement, disease, and starvation. The humanitarian disaster is unparalleled in the eastern provinces where rich mineral deposits

attract rebel groups. Widespread rape and violence against women, the main caretakers in rural Congo, destroy the social fabric of communities. Lack of infrastructure, government services, and protection for the vulnerable population allow armed groups to extract local minerals. Illegal trade in tin, tantalum, and tungsten, valuable to the manufacture of electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops, and cameras, funds the purchase of weapons, fueling the epidemic violence and widespread displacement of civilians.

In the absence of government, faith groups are the only reliable service providers. Haviv described her visit to the church-sponsored Heal Africa hospital in Goma where she met Renée, a survivor of rape and violence. Five years ago Renée awoke to her village in flames. A Hutu genocidaire, a perpetrator from Rwanda, ordered her village destroyed in retaliation for his lost dog. Raped by soldiers, she suffered extensive internal damage and burns over 80% of her body. Her youngest child did not survive the flames. Yet, according to Haviv, “Renée is not a victim... brutalized and traumatized, she is a survivor.” Renee’s plea to her American visitors: call President Obama and bring attention to the plight of the Congolese.

Haviv described important humanitarian and advocacy initiatives. Support from aid groups, she explained, helps build the capacity of the Congolese people to solve their own problems. Women in sewing cooperatives, for example, promoted by such aid groups, raise funds for surgeries to repair wounds from rape. Other Congolese women work collectively in farming cooperatives to provide maternal health services. Among other initiatives, JWW built the first burn center in Congo, where an Israeli plastic surgeon has trained Congolese doctors to perform reparative surgeries. Yet the deep political issues that divide Congo will remain until the profit motive from the mineral trade is reduced. A “conflict-free campaign” seeks to bolster legitimate mining and to weaken the illegal extraction and trade in conflict minerals. As in the diamond trade, Haviv assured her audience, it is possible to audit the supply chain of minerals used in electronics and to certify that devices do not contain minerals obtained through violence.

Haviv urged students to get involved, to call their government representatives, to lobby the University to adopt a conflict-free resolution, to support student groups like STAND. Phone calls make a difference. And so do role models like Clark alumna Naama Haviv! —*Mary Jane Rein*



Naama Haviv '00, MA (ABD) '06, Assistant Director, Jewish World Watch.

SUZANNE KAPLAN, “CHILDREN IN GENOCIDE: EXTREME TRAUMATIC AND AFFECT REGULATION”

14 OCTOBER 2010

Cristina Andriani, Robert Weil Fellow in the Psychology of Genocide, warmly introduced Suzanne Kaplan to Center faculty, staff, and students. Kaplan’s visit, funded as well by a generous gift from Robert Weil, also allowed for her participation in the *Psychology of Genocide and its Aftermath* conference (see p. 8) organized by Psychology Professor Johanna Vollhardt at Clark University (14–16 October 2010). A researcher at the Hugo Valentin Centre at Uppsala University in Sweden, Kaplan studies the long-term effects of extreme trauma on children. Her background as a psychotherapist in clinical practice prepared her well for her work in the late 1990s overseeing 330 interviews with Holocaust survivors in Sweden for the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History. She was one of the first scholars to utilize the archive for research. Her study, *Children in the Holocaust: Dealing with Affects and Memory Images in Trauma and Generational Linking*, was published in 2002. Deeply interested in how people survive genocide and go on living, Kaplan discussed the theories she has developed on trauma-related affects and memory images after genocide.

In her lecture, “Children in Genocide: Extreme Traumatic and Affect Regulation,” Kaplan discussed her interviews with child survivors of the Holocaust and Rwandan teenagers orphaned in the genocide. Noting that the experience of trauma is consistent across cultures and periods, Kaplan explained that these interviews shaped her analytic model for interpreting how children deal with traumatic experiences. The first concept of the model, *generational collapse*, focuses on the survivor’s struggle to present an orderly story in light of the destructive acts of perpetrators. *Perforation* describes how children register sensory perceptions in threatening situations without being able to conceptualize them; thus, child survivors appear reluctant to use existing vocabulary to describe trauma. *Space creating* highlights a strategy children use to distance themselves from an ongoing threat by means of thoughts and actions. In discussing this idea, Kaplan acknowledged the conclusion drawn by Debórah Dwork, the Center’s Director and Rose Professor, in *Children With A Star* (1991) that pure luck and not a special strategy was foremost in survival. The final aspect of the model, *age distortion*, illustrates the reversal many child survivors experience—they feel old as children and child-like as adults. These four factors, according to Kaplan, explain the how and what survivors present in their life stories. A complementary concept is the affect propeller model which explains how “past traumatic experiences are recovered not as memories in the usual sense of the word, but as affects invading the present.”



Rose Professor Debórah Dwork (left) and Dr. Suzanne Kaplan (right), Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University, Sweden.

The ideas Kaplan explored in her lecture at the Center and in the conference following were thought-provoking. Her analysis of interviews in the Shoah archive generated great interest, especially as the testimonies (accessible in the Rose Library) are used extensively by the Center community. Kaplan’s approach to analyzing life histories recounted by child survivors offers important tools to Center students who employ testimonies in their research. Given the absence of cultural differences in how genocide-related trauma is experienced, Kaplan’s results are applicable to a range of research pursued at the Center and beyond.

In my dissertation, *Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Kraków*, I analyze child survival by examining the whole register of individual and communal responses to the plight of children. Oral testimonies by child survivors are essential to my research. Examining war experiences from the child’s perspective, Kaplan shed light on how children evaluate the behavior of their parents and other adults. In my study, I focus on issues relevant to young people, such as having friends, attending school, relationships with nannies, possession of toys, bikes, and pets. These elements illustrate how children managed their daily lives. Kaplan’s model demonstrates how these factors function in the memories of child survivors and how they emerge in oral testimonies. Assessing how children cope with and interpret traumatic events, Kaplan’s work is a singularly important contribution to Holocaust and genocide studies. —Joanna Sliwa

20 OCTOBER 2010

The Strassler Center welcomed the return of long-time friend and colleague Frank Bajohr. A Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Hamburg, Bajohr spoke about a multi-authored project with which he is now engaged, researching foreign diplomats who served in National Socialist Germany. For four years, he has led a team of international scholars examining as many as 100,000 foreign diplomatic reports sent from Nazi Germany. The forthcoming volume, for which he serves as editor, focuses on reports filed by official representatives from a diverse group of nations, including Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Poland, Switzerland, and the United States.

The foreign representatives reported on the depth of German antisemitism and many regarded the street violence “as a ‘rupture of civilization’ unworthy of a modern society.” Yet, while the diplomats often expressed pity for the fate of the Jews, they rarely offered practical help. Most seemed constrained by career considerations. And some representatives even voiced anti-Jewish prejudices. “Ostentatious compassion for the persecuted Jews and indignation over their persecution could certainly go hand in hand

FRANK BAJOHR, “FOREIGN VIEWS OF THE THIRD REICH FROM THE INSIDE: REPORTS BY FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ON GERMAN SOCIETY AND THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS”

In 2010–2011, Bajohr held the Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Among his many books on National Socialism are his volume, *Parvenues and Profiteers: Corruption in the Third Reich*, voted best title by German book critics in 2001, and the now classic study, *Aryanization in Hamburg: The Economic Exclusion of the Jews and the Confiscation of their Property in Nazi Germany* (2002). His latest book, *The People’s Community: New Research on German Society under Nazism*, was published in 2009.

Bajohr offered an overview of the reports submitted by foreign consuls and embassy personnel located throughout Germany. He described how diplomats perceived the Third Reich, the behavior of Germans and their attitudes toward the regime, and how Germans viewed the persecution of the Jews. The official sources, written by well-informed eye-witnesses, offer a new perspective on National Socialism for two reasons. On the one hand, the reports offer a detailed view from within the Third Reich. The diplomats had been living in Germany for many years; they were familiar with the country and maintained close ties to the urban upper class as well as to the Nazi elite. On the other hand, the foreign representatives were outside observers. “The diplomats,” Bajohr remarked, “looked down on the Nazis, seeing them as shady characters, social climbers with the manners of ruffians, entertaining views that were downright awful.” From early on, they understood that persecution would accelerate and that greater violence was probable, but they did not anticipate genocide.

with antisemitic views.” Bajohr explained the lack of help for German Jews by pointing to the economic and political realities of the day. In general, the diplomats conformed to their home countries’ foreign policy. During this time, most nations regarded refugees as an economic burden and they adhered to a tight visa policy.

“In the diplomats’ reports,” Bajohr noted, “the German population appeared mainly as observers who on occasion were full of indignation.” According to the foreign representatives, the Nazi elite was the driving force behind anti-Jewish policy. At the same time, the reports illustrate that anti-Jewish consensus prevailed among the population and many ordinary Germans took an active role in persecuting their Jewish neighbors and co-workers. The diplomatic sources reveal, too, that knowledge of the Nazi genocide was widespread, although they do not record attitudes towards mass murder. By June 1942, the word *vergast* (gassed) was used widely enough to appear in consular reports without further explanation.

Bajohr and the project he described offer an important perspective. The embassy reports provide a critical, almost ethnographic view of the Third Reich, and lay bare the constant transformation of National Socialism. “The diplomatic reports suggest that the Third Reich should not be analyzed with static, one-dimensional categories,” Bajohr concluded. “Rather, in future inquiry, they encourage us to place movement, change, and transformation at the focal point of our work.” —*Michael Nolte*

BEATE MEYER, “STOLPERSTEINE/STUMBLING STONES: A DIFFERENT KIND OF REMEMBRANCE CULTURE IN GERMANY”



Dr. Beate Meyer (left), Senior Researcher, Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg with Rose Professor Debórah Dwork (center), and Dr. Frank Bajohr (right), Senior Researcher, University of Hamburg.

21 OCTOBER 2011

The politics of memory were central to Beate Meyer’s 21 October 2011 presentation on the *stolpersteine* or stumbling stones project. This widespread and ongoing enterprise has resulted in more than 24,000 brass paving stones laid in streets throughout Germany to commemorate individual victims of Nazism. As Senior Researcher at the Institute for the History of German Jews in Hamburg, Meyer collaborates on the project. She oversees a team of fifty researchers gathering biographical information on victims memorialized by stones laid in Hamburg, where there are more stumbling stones than in any other city. The research on the Hamburg victims has been published in eight books, each with around 250 entries and with as many as ten more books forthcoming. In the U.S. as the Ben and Zeldia Cohen Fellow at the USHMM, Meyer was warmly welcomed by the Center community.

Addressing Center faculty, doctoral students, and undergraduate students of Holocaust history, Meyer discussed the etiology of the project and the criticisms leveled against it. The idea for the stumbling stones was conceived by the artist Gunter Demnig in the early ’90s and evolved as a grassroots effort. The project represents a new approach to remembering and stands

in contrast to large, centralized memorials that commemorate persecuted groups. The costs of the stones (95 euros each) are covered by individual sponsors and they are installed in locations intimately connected to the victims’ pre-war lives, usually outside their home or workplace. The impetus to set a stone is typically private—often initiated by the current inhabitants of a building who wish to acknowledge the past. Unveiling a newly laid stone becomes an opportunity for a small ceremony that may include surviving relatives, public officials, interest groups, neighbors, and others seeking to remember an individual victim.

While the stumbling stones enjoy broad public support from the survivor community and among ordinary Germans, many also oppose the project. Survivor groups object to stone sponsors seeking to assuage guilt feelings through a 95 euro purchase. For others, the idea of stones trodden under foot recall Jewish headstones paved into streets. Then too, family members of victims are not always supportive. Some do not welcome renewed attention to their personal history. One retired judge, the son of a mixed marriage, still had not come to terms with the betrayal and murder of his father. And he did not wish to be identified as a Jew. The convergence of private memory and public recognition is not easily reconciled in such cases.

More prosaic concerns fuel some German opposition. Worry about property values may prompt building owners to reject the placement of stones in front of their homes. Or perhaps they do not wish to confront painful thoughts each day. Maybe they did not know that their building was aryanized and worry about the consequences for their ownership.

The question and answer period was filled with lively debate among the Center’s doctoral students. First-year student Michael Nolte noted that, due to the physical placement of the stones in his hometown in Germany, they are easily overlooked. Jan Taubitz, a second-year doctoral student, also from Germany, argued that the decentralized nature of the project forces each town and city to come to terms with the past in its own way. Psychology of genocide student Cristina Andriani was troubled by the symbolism of sponsors who seem to pay a fee to be absolved of their guilt. For third-year student Joanna Sliwa, the whole enterprise raised potentially offensive religious issues, as some relatives of victims see the stones as a stand in for a grave.

Debórah Dwork had the last word. She loves the project but acknowledges the tension it engenders. For her, “it is about reconciliation... not Germans reconciling with Jews, but with themselves.” —*Mary Jane Rein*

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GENOCIDE AND ITS AFTERMATH

14-15 OCTOBER 2010

The three-day conference, *The Psychology of Genocide and its Aftermath*, organized by Psychology Professor Johanna Vollhardt and sponsored by Hiatt Funds, Center supporter Robert Weil, and the International Society of Political Psychology, opened on Thursday 14 October 2010 with a reception held in the Strassler Center's Rose Library. The gathering brought students, scholars, and other distinguished participants together to explore a dual approach to genocide research. The evening continued with a screening of *Icyizere: Hope*, a documentary film by Kenyan director Patrick Mureithi about trauma and reconciliation among perpetrators and survivors of the Rwandan Genocide. A panel discussion followed with leading experts on the psychology of genocide and post-conflict reconciliation, including Giorgia Dona, Suzanne Kaplan, Laurie Pearlman, Ervin Staub, Pamela Steiner, Adin Thayer, and the filmmaker. After the panelists' comments on the film, audience members posed poignant questions highlighting the complexity of healing and forgiveness in the aftermath of mass violence. One question, from the audience of more than 250 people, about how ordinary citizens can make a difference to societies in conflict summed up the prevailing mood of humanitarian concern to be more than bystanders.

The conference, held on Friday, featured panels on the trauma, aftermath, denial, reconciliation, intervention, and prevention of genocide, encompassing the Holocaust, the Rwandan, and Armenian genocides. Opening remarks by Anna Ornstein, MD, child psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and child survivor of the Holocaust, illustrated the close relationship between the personal and the academic in this area of research. The proceedings were closed to the public but included graduate students, faculty from the departments of Psychology and International Development and Social Change, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a few undergraduates, several Holocaust survivors, and conference participants.

The first session, *Trauma Among Survivors of the Rwandan Genocide: Clinical and Cultural Perspectives*, elucidated the challenges faced by genocide victims and offered hope for the restoration of communities and the recovery of individuals. In the ensuing discussion, issues of forgiveness and forgetting were considered within the context of cultural influences. The following session, *Social Psychological Perspectives on the Aftermath of the Holocaust: Findings among Israeli and American Jews*,

expanded upon the complexity of genocide effects, from trauma to lessons learned. The panelists addressed the way collectives deal with *never again* in the media and social groups. An interactive oral history session held at the Strassler Center introduced psychology scholars to the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, an extensive source of Holocaust survivor testimonies used primarily by historians but with rich potential for use in psychology research. The third session, *From Denial to Reconciliation: Turkish-Armenian Responses to 1915*, addressed ongoing tensions about recognizing genocide and the impact of denial on reconciliation. The final session, *Intervention and Prevention of Genocide: Psychological Contributions*, opened an encouraging conversation about prospects for peace after genocide, between the grandchildren of



Filmmaker Patrick Mureithi (left) and Adin Thayer, M.S.W., Smith College School for Social Work.

victims and bystanders, and for building peaceful, democratic societies in post-conflict communities. The discussion, led by Daniel Bar-Tal, Colin Wayne Leach, Patricia Rodriguez Mosquera, and Jaan Valsiner, went beyond current scholarship to consider future paths for research and the potential for activism to minimize present-day mass violence.

The formal conference ended on Friday and an informal workshop on Saturday gathered social psychology graduate students, panelists, and guest speakers for an in-depth discussion about potential research areas and possibilities for collaboration. Ideas that emerged included collaboration between social psychologists and NGOs, subjects for future conferences, and the creation of an online networking group. The conference succeeded in raising questions about the psychology of genocide as a dynamic area for research, as a budding sub-discipline, and as a fertile field for collaboration among psychologists with different specialties. —Cristina Andriani

ATINA GROSSMANN, "THE FAMILY ARCHIVE AND THE HISTORICAL RECORD: TRACES OF JEWISH REFUGEE EXPERIENCE IN IRAN AND INDIA DURING WORLD WAR II"

18 NOVEMBER 2010

Second-year doctoral student Khatchig Mouradian introduced Professor Atina Grossman of Cooper Union, noting their joint interest in the experiences of families and individuals whose stories encompass grand, transnational narratives. Speaking about *The Family Archive and the Historical Record: Traces of Jewish Refugee Experience in Iran and India during World War II*, Grossmann, who teaches Modern European and German history, stepped outside her comfort zone to present preliminary ideas about her genre-bending research on Jewish refugees who found shelter in Central Asia. Accustomed to writing straight historical discourse, she envisions a project that intersects with her parents' war story which began in Berlin and wound through Iran and India.

Grossman's lecture consisted of two parts. In the first, she discussed the experiences of the mostly Polish Jews who fled German occupation or were deported east. She had been drawn to the subject by photographs taken in Displaced Persons camps in which whole families appear including small children, pregnant women, and the elderly—not typical survivor photos. Grossman questioned how these Jews survived the Holocaust with intact families and discovered they had spent the war years in the Soviet Union. The Soviets deported Jews and Poles from Soviet-occupied Poland to labor camps in Siberia and the Asiatic republics. In doing so, they inadvertently saved many Jews from Nazi death camps. Although appalling conditions prevailed in the camps and many people died from poor nutrition, severe weather, and debilitating slave labor, hundreds of thousands of Jews survived. In 1941, the Polish government-in-exile arranged for the release of their citizens, Jews and non-Jews.

The story of those Jews who spent the rest of the war in Soviet Central Asia emerged in the second part of the lecture along with her parents' war experiences in Teheran. The materials that underpin this part of Grossman's work literally fell on her head while she was clearing out her mother's closets. Her parents, "whose paths would never have crossed in Berlin," met in Teheran. Glamorous photos taken during the same years that European Jews were persecuted and killed show her parents skiing in the Iranian mountains and picnicking in the desert, and thus document an entirely different war story. Mingled with these photos were clues to clandestine activities which coincided with her father's occasional hints about having been a Zionist spy.

Teheran, it turns out, was a distribution point for a major relief project organized by the American Jewish aid agency, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Essential goods purchased throughout the

British Empire (the Middle East, India, Australia, and South Africa) were organized into a vast parcel program that primarily aided Polish Jews in Central Asia. Whole Jewish families, such as those featured in the DP photos, owed their survival to this operation. The network established to help the roughly 300,000 Polish Jews in Central Asia depended upon information from family members in Palestine who provided names and addresses. By 1944, approximately 10,000 packages per month were delivered by convoys of Soviet trucks. Among Grossman's papers, transit visas to Palestine in her father's name hint at a possible connection to this operation.

The survival of Jews who found refuge in Central Asia has been elided by the more tragic Holocaust narrative. Grossman raised intriguing questions about the definition of survivor, including her father who was detained in India for five years (many after war's end). He had left Teheran, seeking to immigrate to the United States. Tickets in hand, he planned to sail from India. As he traveled with a German passport that showed his extensive visits to Berlin, Palestine, and Teheran, the British suspected him of being a spy. Daily letters, between her father in a British internment camp in India and her mother in Teheran, document their lives during this period. At the end of her riveting presentation, Grossmann solicited suggestions about how to organize her narrative. Should it be more historical discourse or family memoir? The responses were mixed. One student suggested two books. Another suggested that she use the love story motif as her organizing principle. Clearly, this glimpse into Grossman's complicated work in progress was deeply rewarding for the mainly student audience which was held spellbound to the end. —*Konstantina Choros*

Professor Atina Grossmann, Cooper Union.



SOME MEASURE OF JUSTICE: AN INTERVIEW WITH DOUGLAS DAVIDSON, STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOLOCAUST ISSUES



Douglas Davidson (left), State Department Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, and Hausrath Fellow Khatchig Mouradian.

23 NOVEMBER 2010

“When you try to right a wrong of such an unprecedented scale [the Holocaust], you can never completely provide justice to people, but some measure of it is important and needs to be done,” said Douglas Davidson in an interview conducted after a lively meeting with graduate students at the Strassler Center on 23 November 2010. He was speaking about efforts to return World War II era assets to their rightful owners.

Davidson, the State Department’s Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, noted that his office was established when circumstances combined to refocus the attention of the U.S. government on issues pertaining to the Holocaust. “The end of the Cold War created possibilities for restitution or compensation for people who lost their lives or their property in Central and Eastern Europe,” he explained. “Also, Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina re-triggered an interest in genocide prevention.”

The office of Special Envoy has evolved since its early focus on large financial agreements and monitoring their implementation. European banks and insurance companies paid compensation to Holocaust survivors and victims’ heirs. Countries like France and Austria set up funds for the same purpose. “But what *hasn’t* happened is what people thought would happen more easily, such as compensation for the loss of private property. That process has not been completed, and in some places, hasn’t even started,” Davidson noted.

The State Department collaborates with Central and Eastern European governments, encouraging them

to follow best practices. “We say ‘you would do well to do what country X is doing: They’ve set up a commission or fund to invest money to pay people compensation for their losses.’ Or ‘they have set up a fair and transparent process, by which if you have a claim you can apply to get it resolved.’” According to Davidson, Austria is a positive example. “For many years, it regarded itself as Hitler’s first victim, and it wasn’t till the late ’90s that Chancellor [Franz] Vranitzky bravely apologized and established a process that has resulted in the creation of various funds in Austria and restitution processes that have been under way for 15 years.” Similarly, in France, it wasn’t until Jacques Chirac spoke up in 1995 that the French began to come to terms with the fact that “they weren’t all in the resistance, and that there were people who had collaborated.” A process to set up funds and compensate victims ensued.

Providing compensation helps countries confront their past. “We all have difficulties in our past, including the United States. But the effort to come to terms with it, deal with it, and provide justice is important for all of us,” Davidson observed. Paying compensation is not only about the past, “but dealing with the present and with issues that may confront people in the future.” There was a note of urgency in Davidson’s voice as he spoke about the challenges he faces. “The longer you go without restitution—and this is what a lot of governments in Central and Eastern European countries are silently counting on—the less pressure there is to get things back,” he explained. “Entire families were wiped out. Many of them owned things that no one stands to inherit. So there is a lot of unclaimed property that could be put to good use for the benefit of the survivors.” Once survivors are gone, it will be harder to argue that countries should return property. “It’s not that we’re trying to hurry history along, but there is reason to stay involved diplomatically to try to help people even if it’s 65 years after World War II and 20 years after communism.”

The welfare of Holocaust survivors is another important concern. “In most cases they are old, in many cases very ill, and quite often they have particular needs because of what they experienced. Finding funds to help them live their final years in some dignity and comfort is becoming more and more important.”

Davidson’s office represents the U.S. on the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. As the number of survivors dwindles, the crucial role of the Strassler Center and other Holocaust research and educational institutions “will grow in importance,” he predicted.

—*Khatchig Mouradian*

With the support of a Stern Fellowship, I have been pleased to initiate a new doctoral track in Comparative Genocide; I am the first student in the Strassler Center doctoral program to focus on African genocide. The Center's mandate embraced Holocaust History and Genocide Studies from the outset. I share the conviction that study of past atrocities contributes toward positive change in the present and is a factor in developing policy for the future. Identifying differences and commonalities among genocides forms a basis for understanding how to prevent the recurrence of violence and provides a blueprint for rehabilitating societies torn apart by its occurrence.

Students of Comparative Genocide draw on a variety of methodological approaches, including journalism. Jimmie Briggs is a journalist who advocates globally for women's rights and the prevention of violence against women. Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Scholar Leora Kahn, teaching a comparative genocide seminar and a photo editor herself, invited Briggs to address an audience of students and faculty on 8 February 2011 in the Rose Library. The Department of International Development graciously served as co-sponsor. In his career as a journalist, Briggs followed army tanks and militia fighters, documenting conflicts worldwide and the people caught in their web. In 2008, Briggs committed himself to full-time activism. He spoke to students about the deciding moment: an interview with a woman who had suffered unthinkable horrors at the hands of Congolese militia fighting in the Bukavu district in Congo. As a survivor of brutal sexual violence, she implored Briggs to recount her experience to a broader public and in response he launched a worldwide campaign.

The Man Up! initiative was inaugurated during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Dedicated to ending violence against women, Man Up! now operates programs in 50 countries. Using hip hop, urban culture, and media trends, Briggs and his team train young people to develop grassroots projects. No two Man Up! initiatives are identical; youth activists are encouraged to design their own anti-violence campaigns building upon regional and traditional approaches. While no longer an active journalist, Briggs continues to write. His next book project, *The Wars Women Fight*, is a series of letters to his daughter about the hardships women around the world face as victims of violence.

Briggs's talk was an *Especially for Students* lecture and sponsored by the Holocaust and Genocide Studies undergraduate concentration, directed by Professor Shelly Tenenbaum. The series is intended to inspire action by Clark undergraduates. I was one of the first to give such a lecture as a Clark undergraduate, following a summer (2004) internship in Rwanda working with a non-governmental organization training personnel for the post-conflict Gacaca Courts. An Arthur and Rochelle Belfer award in Holocaust Studies funded my trip to Rwanda. Upon my return, I had the

opportunity to speak about my experience as part of an *Especially for Students* event marking the ten-year anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. This lecture series has gained great momentum since then, bringing experienced field practitioners, academics, and authors such as Jimmie Briggs, winner of the 2010 G.Q. Better Man Better World prize.

JIMMIE BRIGGS, "MANNING UP TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE"

The Strassler Center has also gained momentum, growing its doctoral program to include the Comparative Genocide studies track. My journey to the Strassler Center resembles an extended academic and professional circle, having returned to the place where I was inspired to study genocide. A 2007 email from Center Director Debórah Dwork planted the seed for my eventual return. Writing to her about my work with an international organization in Tanzania and my efforts resettling refugees in the Dallas metroplex, I mused about putting these experiences "in the field" to use by pursuing a doctorate. Her positive response, safely planted in my mind, took root over the next two years as I continued my studies in Israel and later returned to Rwanda. Activists like Jimmie Briggs bring the suffering of millions to the attention of the world. The challenge to scholars is to illuminate why mass violence occurs and to respond on the basis of an understanding of history, geopolitics, international law, and comparative cases. It is a challenge I stand ready to accept. —Sara Brown



Jimmie Briggs, journalist and founder of Man Up!

Latvian-born psychologist David Boder captured victims' voices in interviews he recorded in the immediate post-war period. These testimonies are the subject of the recently published *The Wonder of Their Voices: The 1946 Holocaust Interviews of David Boder* (2010) by Yad Vashem historian Dr. Alan Rosen. According to Boder, "the wonder of hearing their own voices recorded was boundless," as Rosen explained to a 3 March gathering of Center students and faculty. Many in the audience were well-versed in the use of testimony for their research. Dr. Rosen's engaging presentation carried forward a conversation about testimony begun in a December meeting with Douglas Ballman, a representative from the Shoah Visual History Archive.

Boder's subjects cover the extremes in the Jewish community, from Torah observant to assimilated and intermarried. Most had survived labor and death camps. Some had fled to Russia or served in the Red Army. Boder saw these Jews as survivors; Yad Vashem, by contrast, did not, and therefore did not record their histories. Boder had a special interest in children and 30 percent of his subjects were teenagers or younger. He also solicited and recorded songs from before, during, and after the war, splicing them within testimony.

Rosen highlighted the importance of the interview language. He described an interview with a Polish survivor, Bella, whose testimony in English is full of hope. Switching to Polish, her message is one of searing hate. He delineated, too, how the graphic

ALAN ROSEN, "EARLY POST-WAR VICTIM TESTIMONIES/ PSYCHOLOGIST DAVID BODER'S 1946 DP INTERVIEWS"

As video emerged as the dominant medium for later testimony projects, initiatives such as the Shoah and Fortunoff Archives obscured Boder's contribution and early post-war interviews in general, Rosen explained. Historical commissions established by survivors from 1944 to 1949 constitute the earliest efforts to document the experiences of victims and were organized with the goal of gathering evidence for prosecution. In a sense, these efforts continued the work of the Oyneg Shabbos Committee, the extensive documentation project in the Warsaw Ghetto overseen by the historian Emanuel Ringelblum and his colleagues. Boder's work also evolved from the pioneering work of the Russian Jewish ethnographer S. An-sky who recorded victim experiences throughout the Pale of Settlement as he documented the destruction of Jewish communities during World War I.

Boder, who studied psychology in St. Petersburg and was probably familiar with An-sky's efforts, recognized that he had to go to the victims to learn about their experiences directly. Seeking clearance from the authorities, he argued that a psychologist was needed in the displaced persons camps. Granted permission, he arrived in Europe in July 1946. A professor at the Chicago-based Lewis Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology), Boder traveled with cutting-edge recording equipment. And, as he was proficient in seven languages, he was well prepared for the multi-lingual demands of his project. If we see his efforts as an amazingly early initiative, he thought he was late on the scene. From 27 July until 4 October, he recorded 130 interviews with 85 survivors. His original conception was to interview everyone—German children, workers, bystanders, Jews, and Christians—but he ultimately focused on DPs, mostly Eastern European Jews from Poland.

hideousness of the Holocaust emerges in the course of the interviews. Boder's questions evolved, and he adjusted his queries as his horizon of ignorance narrowed.

Boder wished to teach America about the Holocaust and to create sympathy for the DPs at a time when anti-immigration feeling was intense. Indeed, his work was embraced at home and supported by his home institution and the National Institute of Mental Health. The funding he secured from key institutions, which enabled his work and resulted in his book, *I Did Not Interview the Dead* (University of Illinois Press, 1949), challenges the idea of American indifference in the early post-war years.

Alan Rosen deepened our appreciation for the nuances of survivor testimony. He traced the history of efforts to capture it, and in doing so added richness to a source of primary value to research that lies at the Center's core. —*Mary Jane Rein*

Psychologist David Boder (courtesy of the Illinois Institute of Technology).



MAYA BENTON, "PICTURING VISHNIAC: A CLOSER READING, NEW WORK, AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF JEWISH IDENTITY"

The photographic legacy of Roman Vishniac, renowned for documenting Eastern European Jewish life before the Holocaust, was the subject of a public lecture on 7 April 2011. With the support of the David and Edie Chaifetz Fund in the Program for Jewish Studies, the Strassler Center partnered with the Worcester Jewish Community Center to present Maya Benton's groundbreaking research. In her animated introduction, Olga Litvak, Leffell Professor of Jewish Studies, hinted at the intellectual richness to be expected from her long-time friend. Benton, a curator at the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York and collections manager for the Roman Vishniac Estate, is bringing to light masses of previously unpublished photographs. In *Picturing Vishniac: A Closer Reading, New Work, and Constructions of Jewish Identity*, Benton explored Vishniac's place within the canon of photojournalism and the contribution his newly uncovered corpus of photographs offers to our understanding of pre-war Eastern European Jewish life.

Only 1 percent of Vishniac's pictures was ever published. That tiny fraction of photos, widely known from the celebrated 1983 book *A Vanished World*, forged his position as the iconic *shtetl* photographer. A staple of many American Jewish home libraries, *A Vanished World* presents a selection of photographs taken during his 1936 to 1938 travels through Eastern Europe. That Vishniac took these photos under commission from the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to document Jewish life as part of a fundraising campaign on behalf of poor Jews was obscured by the photographer and long forgotten. Yet the purpose of the photos framed his focus on impoverished, religious men, easily identified as Jews. In the post-war period, American Jews embraced these images as a record of the culture destroyed by the Holocaust. Yet, as Benton's lecture illustrated, the published photographs distort our understanding of Eastern European Jewish life. A rich corpus of previously unknown pictures documents a vibrant and secular community, very different from the familiar representations. The photographs Benton has uncovered and researched will appear in a forthcoming Vishniac exhibition at ICP; they will challenge the accepted image of Eastern European Jewry and will position Vishniac among leading modernist photographers.

Indeed, Vishniac's work was more innovative and versatile than his published photos suggest. His unpublished work, which captured 1930s cosmopolitan Berlin, the rise of Nazi power, Jewish youth in Brooklyn, and portraits of influential Jewish refugees such as Albert Einstein in the 1950s, was *avant garde* and should be analyzed alongside such pioneers in photojournalism

as Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans. The Vishniac oeuvre is much more multi-dimensional than imagined. His photos illustrate joy and pain, hardship and success; they portray European life through multiple lenses: secular and religious; young and old; female and male.



Roman Vishniac, Jewish school children, Mukacevo, ca. 1935-38
©Mara Vishniac Kohn (courtesy of the International Center of Photography).

Vishniac was born into a wealthy Russian Jewish family that emigrated from Moscow to Berlin during the Soviet Revolution, although he suggested that his roots were humble. With the rise of Nazism, his family again relinquished their home and livelihood and reestablished themselves in New York. His contacts at the JDC helped, despite a later falling out. The trans-Atlantic move was an ordeal, but Vishniac persevered and established his reputation by responding to public interest in his more sentimental photos. His daughter Mara Vishniac Kohn has donated his entire collection to ICP and has encouraged its full study and publication. Vishniac did not organize or catalogue the negatives, and the photographs must now be identified through survivor testimonies, art historical research, and meticulous historical investigation. Benton's painstaking research will enrich the full Vishniac archive, to be made available on the Internet.

Benton described amazing discoveries that brought Vishniac's images to life. Her lecture was rich in pictures, historical insights, and personal tales, and the audience was alive with questions at its conclusion. The promise of the Chaifetz gift, to enrich Jewish studies at Clark, was fulfilled by Maya Benton's magnificent presentation on Roman Vishniac, the most celebrated photographic chronicler of Eastern European Jewry.

—Kimberly Partee

PAUL HAIDOSTIAN, “THE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: HOW TO ASSESS THEIR MINISTRY”



Reverend Paul Haidostian, President, Haigazian University, Beirut.

14 APRIL 2011

Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor Taner Akçam proudly introduced his colleague Paul Haidostian, a Professor of Theology and President of Haigazian University. Established in 1955 in Beirut, Lebanon by the joint endeavors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Haigazian University embodies the persistence of Armenian culture in the aftermath of genocide. The simple fact of the university, which was founded to serve the Armenian diaspora community in the Middle East, is of great consequence to students and scholars of the Armenian Genocide. In Akçam’s appreciative words, Haidostian “brings together in his life and work, the academic, the personal, the social, the spiritual, and the political.”

With passion and eloquence, Haidostian explored the missionary heritage of his church in his 14 April 2011 lecture, *The American Missionaries and the Armenian Genocide: How to Assess Their Ministry*. The lecture was supported by the Asher fund, as Center Director Debórah Dwork noted in welcoming the audience. Haidostian spoke about individual missionaries who sponsored religious and community institutions in Armenia and Lebanon that have shaped his church and

his family history. The topic emerged from scholarly interest as well as his personal need and a sense of communal gratitude.

Considering the impact of American missionary activity among the Armenians, Haidostian reflected on the role missionaries played during and after the Armenian Genocide. He used five metaphors to assess their ministry during that challenging period, beginning with witness. Just as the missionaries observed non-violent inter-ethnic relations in Turkey prior to the genocide, they also became direct witnesses to the killings, deportations, and hardships of the people they served. By witness, he not only meant that they saw what happened first-hand, but also that they stood as witnesses, wrote as witnesses, interpreted, and shared with the larger world as witnesses. They reported names, institutions, dates, and places. What they saw and heard shaped them, and their accounts shaped much of the international coverage of the Genocide.

If American missionaries served as witnesses, they shone as relief workers. Missionaries initiated relief efforts when atrocities began and continued their work in neighboring countries where Armenians found shelter during the decades of transition to established communities. Haidostian noted that distant and neighboring states and even Armenian organizations contributed. But American missionary efforts were especially noteworthy and important.

Missionaries functioned as informal diplomats, too. They maintained contacts in their home countries and with the Ottoman authorities as they tried to secure institutional permissions and lobbied for the safety of their staff, students, orphans, and neighbors. These efforts were more successful during the first three years of the Genocide, before the United States joined World War I on the side of the Allies. As fundraisers, missionaries mobilized families and Protestant congregations to support these efforts. Finally, missionaries served as opinion leaders and intellectuals.

Haidostian employed these metaphors to highlight the fundamental roles of American missionaries during the Genocide. In the discussion following his lecture, he underlined that “one should note that their role is not much remembered or celebrated for a number of reasons: the days were sad days and Armenians passed through mourning.” In paying tribute to the missionaries, he expressed gratitude for their work. Haidostian ended by stressing the importance of deepening relations between Haigazian University and the Strassler Center. Thanking his hosts, he noted that Taner Akçam holds the Kaloosdian/Mugar Professorship, and “the building in which I live and have my office is called the Mugar Building, a generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mugar.” We hope a robust partnership will build upon this shared philanthropic purpose. —Ümit Kurt

My grandmother attended Euphrates College, a missionary institution located in Harput, Turkey. She graduated in 1915, just prior to the arrest and execution of Armenian faculty members. This lecture furnished a context for her experience that is profoundly interesting to me.

—Greg Hagopian, Worcester resident

28 APRIL 2011

The Center community enjoyed a much anticipated return visit by Dr. Radu Ioanid, Director of the International Archival Program at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Ioanid, who serves on the dissertation committee for Rose Fellow Stefan Ionescu, described his work at the USHMM where he oversees more than 60 million pages of documents from over 40 countries. He went on to discuss the Iași pogrom (28 June–6 July 1941) carried out by German soldiers and Romanian collaborators (including soldiers, police, gendarmes, and civilians), illustrating his talk with searing photographs. As the USHMM participated in the 2010 effort to locate the mass graves of the victims, Ioanid's presentation offered particularly significant insights.

Pre-war Iași had a population of 100,000 inhabitants, half of whom were Jews. According to Ioanid, a combination of factors, including antisemitism, propaganda, terror spread by military operations, and the manipulation of the Romanian authorities made Iași's Jewish population a ripe target. The pogrom, which felled 13,266 victims, was followed by the systematic deportation of Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia, as well as Ukrainian Jews, to Transnistria where many were murdered. Photos taken during the pogrom capture the mass killings and depict Romanian soldiers arresting Jews on the streets of Iași; corpses lined up on the streets in the light of day; leaders of the town's Jewish community beaten and humiliated; victims forced to clean blood from the cobblestone pavements.

The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania determined to locate the graves of the Jewish victims of the Iași pogrom by means of an oral history project conducted in 2010. The project comprised interviews with eyewitnesses, archival research, and forensic investigation. Amazingly, the project identified two elderly men, Vasile Enache and Ion Bosanceanu, who witnessed the executions and led researchers to a mass grave of Jewish victims in the district of Iași, in northeast Romania. Located in the Vulturi forest in the village of Popricani, the grave contained remains of over 50 Jews—men, women, and children, some with their arms around their mothers' necks. The victims came from Sculeni (located in present-day Moldova) but also included Jews from Copou and other small neighborhoods of Iași. According to witness accounts, Romanian troops committed the Popricani massacre. Forensic investigation at the site of the mass grave retrieved Romanian bullets manufactured in 1939.

Dr. Ioanid concluded that a positive shift has occurred in Romanian official reaction to its wartime history. The discovery of a mass grave 70 years after the war ended generated massive publicity in Romania and the investigation of the grave site is now in the hands of military prosecutors who are treating it as manslaughter. Discoveries remain to be made about the artifacts found through excavation. Ioanid expressed great anticipation about the planned examination of a lady's pocket watch. He hopes for an inscription inside. His audience, too, looks forward to learning more from him about the tragic events of the Iași pogrom.

—*Natalya Lazar*

RADU IOANID, "THE HOLOCAUST IN ROMANIA: HISTORY AND ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION"

The horrors of the pogrom were equaled by the death and suffering that characterized the trains transporting the survivors. Two trains departed from Iași: one traveled with 1,011 Jews to Calarasi (6 July 1941), the other with 1,902 Jews was destined for Podul Iloaiei (30 June 1941). Both transports, carried out in the heat of the summer, aboard crowded, unventilated freight cars, resulted in hundreds of deaths due to heat exhaustion, suffocation, dehydration, and suicide during the journey. According to Ioanid, these events had many witnesses. Photos show local Roma, under the supervision of Romanian police, removing corpses from the Iași-Calarasi death train during a stop in Targu-Frumos. In another photo, passengers in a passing train view the corpses of Iași death train victims dumped next to the tracks. Sadly, while the number of victims who died in the death trains is known, the place of their burial remains unknown.



Romanian Jews rounded up during the Iași pogrom (courtesy of USHMM).



Center doctoral students Jan Taubitz (left) and Joanna Silwa (right) with Douglas Ballman (center left), Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork (center right).

LINKAGES

Holocaust history and Genocide studies require multiple disciplinary approaches, familiarity with wide geographic areas, and an understanding of broad sweeps of history. Recognizing that such expansive expertise exceeds the boundaries of a single program, the Strassler Center has long valued links with a broad array of far-flung institutional partners.

Possibilities for new academic partnerships abound. Working with colleagues at Yad Vashem, Hebrew University, Haifa University, and the (Israeli) Open University, we seek to institutionalize long-standing informal links with Israeli institutions. And we look forward to initiatives with Haigazian University, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, and the American College of Thessaloniki. We envision partnerships much like our cooperation with the Danish Institute for International Studies—exchanges of students and faculty, opportunities for shared research, and co-sponsoring conferences and seminars. We are delighted that building these partnerships is supported by Clark’s new academic and financial plan which takes global concerns seriously and embraces external collaborations.

Closer to home, new linkages are underway with university programs across the United States. A fellowship opportunity, conceived by Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Studies and Director of the Rodgers Center at Chapman University, and Center Director Debórah Dwork, will send a graduate or post-doctoral student from the Strassler Center to teach undergraduates at Chapman. Jeffrey Koerber, now in the final phase of writing his dissertation, inaugurates

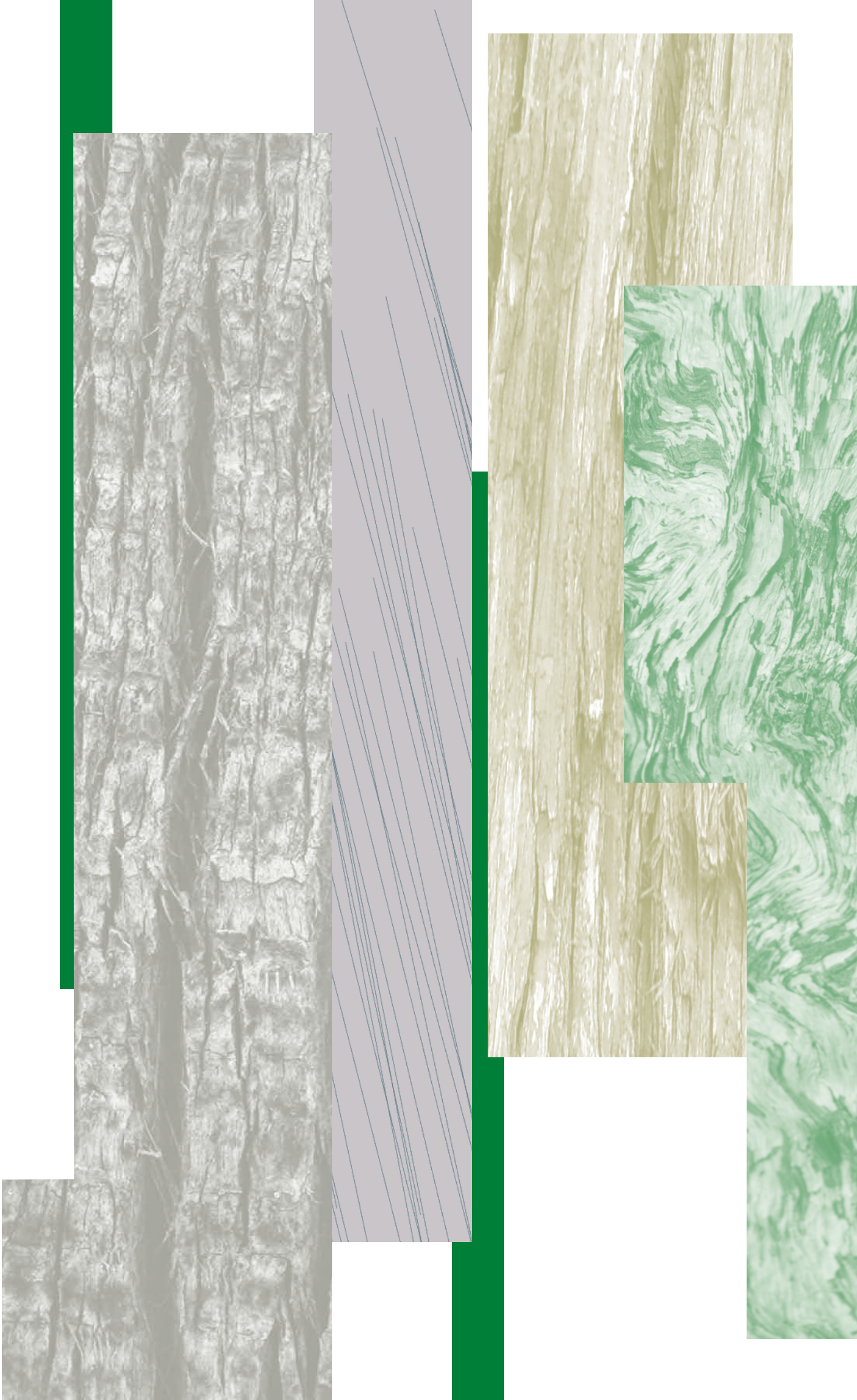
this joint endeavor (see page 42). Chapman’s undergraduate program will be enriched with fresh perspectives, thanks to Koerber’s teaching and research, while the Center’s outstanding junior scholar will gain classroom experience and time to publish.

Possibilities for collaboration also emerged during a visit by Douglas Ballman, Manager of External Relations at the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive, a valued resource for many doctoral research projects. Members of the Center community and contributing faculty discussed current uses of the archive and analyzed how it could be a more effective educational tool in the hands of Clark faculty in different disciplines. Access to the archive, thanks to the initiative and funding of Center supporter David Strassler, presents opportunities for creative teaching. Professors Toby Sisson, Visual and Performing Arts, and Robert Tobin, Foreign Languages and Literature, attended the meeting with Ballman and were inspired by student presentations on the use of testimony as well as teaching techniques demonstrated by Cheryl Turner Elwell, Director of Academic Technology at Clark.

Linkages with the institutions listed here have enriched the Strassler Center during the academic year 2010–2011. They provided expertise, collegiality, opportunities for public outreach, and new audiences. Several of these partner institutions will contribute significantly to academic conferences at the Center in 2011-2012. Their involvement is essential to the Center’s outstanding programs and the education and training of doctoral students. —*Mary Jane Rein*

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THESSALONIKI
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
AUSCHWITZ INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
DANISH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
DERSIM ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES
THE FRIENDS OF HRANT DINK FOUNDATION
GENOCIDE INTERVENTION NETWORK
GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.
HADASSAH BRANDEIS INSTITUTE
HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY, BEIRUT
INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF GERMAN JEWS, HAMBURG
THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS
JEWISH WOMEN'S ARCHIVE
JEWISH WORLD WATCH
LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITY
THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE – A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH
PER AHLMARK FOUNDATION
SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE
SOUTH AFRICAN HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
WORCESTER JCC
YAD VASHEM
YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH







FACULTY NOTES

Center faculty create the core intellectual community our students enjoy. Looking to the future, we aim to grow our scholarly reach with the addition of faculty working in synergistic areas as our doctoral program branches into new areas of inquiry.

FACULTY PROFILES

DEBÓRAH DWORK

“This year felt like a powerful river,” Center Director and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork reflected. “By the time it had run its course, all aspects of our mandate—scholarship, teaching, and public service—had flowed forward. We ended in a wholly different place than we had begun.”

Long eager to grow comparative genocide studies, particularly analysis of mass violence in Africa, Center faculty admitted the first doctoral student to focus on this area. Sara Brown joined her first-year colleagues in January (2011), supported by the Stern Fellowship for Comparative Genocide Studies. Brown promptly gained fresh perspectives through her work with Leora Kahn, Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Scholar in the spring term, and IDCE professor Anita Häusermann Fábos. “As Director of Graduate Studies this year, I met weekly with each first-year graduate student to oversee academic progress,” Dwork explained. “Within a fortnight, Sara, Leora, and Anita left me behind. Teaching and mentorship are the keystones of our doctoral program. Each professor brings individual expertise and scholarship, and I am as appreciative of that bounty as I am grateful that each shares it.”

Many experts, at Clark and beyond its gates, enrich the Center’s doctoral program. Recognizing that no one institution enjoys the entire spectrum of intellectual resources Holocaust and genocide studies requires, Dwork developed a model for leveraging great scholarship scattered across academia and the museum and NGO worlds to build a doctoral program that transcends institutional boundaries. Outstanding experts at colleges that do not run doctoral programs, cutting-edge scholars at universities that do not invest in graduate work in this area, and renowned authorities at other non-academic institutions participate in mentoring the next generation. Students—and the field of Holocaust and genocide studies—are the beneficiaries. “In this era of amazing communication technology, restricted financial resources, and complex projects, shared expertise across institutions *must* increase,” Dwork observed. “Still, it is thanks to the generosity of each colleague that the idea grew legs.” Four students defended their dissertation proposals, and another, Sarah Cushman, defended her dissertation. These pivotal moments brought a sparkling array of scholars to the Center: Karel Berkhoff (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences); Jan Gross (Princeton University); Sam Kassow (Trinity College); Geoffrey Megargee (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum); Robert Jan van Pelt (University of Waterloo). And their presence allowed for multiple conversations and cross-fertilization, sparking fresh ideas and research avenues for others to pursue.

These relationships carry forward in unexpected ways. “Just one example,” she offered. “With his



Center Director and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork (courtesy of *Worcester Magazine*.)

encyclopedia knowledge of archival sources, Radu Ioanid (USHMM), a member of Stefan Ionescu’s dissertation committee, has such fruitful suggestions that he is considered an honorary member of everyone’s panel!” In her view, the engagement of colleagues at Clark and afar gives new meaning to Camus’s observation: “Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.”

As Sarah Cushman’s dissertation director, Dwork had the honor of presenting her to President Angel for her degree. For Dwork, the ceremony has genuine meaning. “We wear a cap and gown, but forget that the costume signifies moral autonomy.” Doctoral education in Holocaust and genocide studies carries a particular historical responsibility, she maintains. “We are shocked more deeply by academics’ acceptance of Nazi ideology than we are by the marginalized or the unemployed. They betrayed that moral autonomy. It thus seems to me that our graduates bear a unique burden and responsibility.” They stand in opposition to their German counterparts of the 1930s and 1940s such as Martin Heidegger, philosopher and rector of Freiburg University, whose ties to National Socialism were the subject of a talk by Whitman College Professor Julia Ireland. Invited by Henry J. Leir Professor Robert Tobin, Ireland discussed fresh evidence she uncovered about Heidegger’s support for Nazism.

With a robust stream of a dozen doctoral students to mentor, Dwork anticipates many such ceremonies. For the students and for her, the program is a journey. “I never had anyone pay such close attention to my written work,” Michael Nolte, a G-1, observed. “It’s like having my own private tutor,” G-2 Khatchig Mouradian added. “Highly demanding; highly supportive.” Dwork, for her part, appreciates the mutual commitment of students and faculty on behalf of everyone. “Khatchig is a perfect example,” she pointed out. “Taner Akçam advises his dissertation on the deportation of Armenians to Der Zor. But as my expertise is useful, Khatchig asked me to serve on his committee as well. I am thrilled!” The resonances across subfields abound. In Bucharest for the publi-

cation of a Romanian edition of *A Shameful Act*, Akçam managed, in the midst of a packed schedule of lectures and TV interviews, to meet with Stefan Ionescu, now writing a dissertation on Romanianization. “We explored the contours of Romanianization/Turkification and restitution policies against ethnic minorities,” Ionescu reported to Dwork. “There is a lot of comparative work to be done!” The interchange among Center faculty and students, and the rigorous scholarly culture it encourages, yield results. “The benchmarks of success shine bright,” Dwork declared. “And,” she added, “They shine bright for faculty, too. We were short-handed this year because Thomas Kühne was at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) on a Guggenheim Fellowship, and Olga Litvak was at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard on a Starr Fellowship (pun richly deserved).”

Graduate student mentoring is but one aspect of Dwork’s job. An innovative scholar and indefatigable Director of the Center, she stakes new ground in many areas. Dwork’s no (undergraduate) teaching term in spring 2012 offers her a window for longer works. She took a head start by writing a chapter on “Rescue” for *The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies* (2010). “Thanks to Peter’s [Hayes] and John’s [Roth] invitation, I looked at the subject anew. We think we know a lot about rescue. Trust me: we don’t.” Her book project, *Saints and Liars*, explores the history of Americans who traveled to Europe to rescue Jews. Born into a spectrum of personal circumstances, these Americans had little in common except their commitment to help. Jews, Unitarians, Quakers, secular people, men and women, from cities and small towns, they perceived possibilities for action where others saw none. “I find these people riveting,” Dwork exclaimed. “What prompted them to attempt these acts of astounding courage? And how did they actually effect their goals?”

Dwork’s interest in rescue dovetails with her pioneering early work on Jewish children in Nazi Europe. At Professor Patrick Henry’s request, she wrote a chapter on “Children’s Creative Arts as Resistance,” for his edited book, *Jewish Resistance to the Nazis*, to be published by Catholic University Press. “Creative arts were a form of resistance. But resistance to *what*, precisely?” Dwork asked. Again she gave herself a head start with *A Boy in Terezín: The Private Diary of Pavel Weiner* (forthcoming in November, Northwestern University Press). “Pavel engaged in all manner of creative activities. He was ‘editor’ of a children’s newspaper, and wrote most of the articles; he played the piano; he kept a diary. What did all of this mean to him? That is the key question.”

Dwork brings her analytical perspective to pedagogical questions about Holocaust education and genocide prevention. Building upon her participation in the Salzburg Global Forum (summer 2010) on “The Global Prevention of Genocide,” she returned to the Schloss Leopoldskron in June to discuss institutional and regional priorities and interdisciplinary approaches to genocide education. Recognizing that one of the

great gifts of the Center’s success is that it serves as a model for others, she advises colleagues who seek to establish like institutes. She wholeheartedly supports Daniel Blatman, Amos Goldberg, and Raz Segal’s efforts to found an institute at Hebrew University: “a twin center.” And she applauds Wendy Lower’s vision of a Center at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, relishing the prospect of a close institutional affiliation.

Dwork broadcasts her passion to audiences of all kinds. Regarding teaching teachers as a privilege, she was delighted to present the keynote address at the Annual Council of Holocaust Educators Conference held at Brookdale Community College (NJ); to conduct a session at the Advanced Winter Seminar for Teachers run by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous; and to return to the Museum of Jewish Heritage (NY) to speak at the Shoah Teaching Alternatives in Jewish Education Summer Seminar. Her scholarly work took her to Antwerp, to deliver a keynote address at the Netherlands American Studies Association/Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association annual meeting and to Boca Raton, to serve as a panel respondent at the biannual Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust conference. Thanks to her colleague Taner Akçam, pursuing a link with the American College of Thessaloniki in Greece (ACT), Dwork was invited to give the Annual Dukakis Center Holocaust and Genocide Studies Lecture, hosted by ACT and the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki. Speaking in the Tiano Room of the Consulate General held special meaning: David Tiano, a Thessaloniki Jew, was employed by the Consulate when the Germans invaded Greece. Arrested by the occupation forces, Tiano and two colleagues were sent to a concentration camp; Tiano was executed on 7 February 1942. His colleagues survived. Dwork was honored to deliver this address and to perpetuate David Tiano’s memory. She was moved, too, by the invitation to deliver the George Rosen Memorial Lecture at Yale. Rosen had been a mentor to Dwork long before she turned to Holocaust history; her first book, *War is Good for Babies*, is dedicated to him. Rosen, an American Jew, had seen Nazism up close. Restrictive clauses had barred his admission to American medical schools and, in 1930, he went to Berlin to study medicine at the Kaiser Wilhelm University. There he met Beate Caspari just as the Nazis came to power in January 1933. Their courtship was brief; Nazi regulations would have expelled Beate. Married to George and protected by his citizenship, she completed her medical degree and the couple immigrated to the United States. Dwork recorded Beate’s history after George’s untimely death in 1977. Surely her life shaped Dwork’s interest in refugees, the subject of Dwork’s *Flight from the Reich*.

Asked how she managed to accomplish so much on so many fronts, Dwork paused for a moment. “I take comfort from the poet X.J. Kennedy’s line, ‘The purpose of time is to prevent everything from happening at once,’” she replied. —*Mary Jane Rein*

TANER AKÇAM

The scholarship of Taner Akçam, Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies, extends beyond the classroom. Internationally renowned and constantly in motion, Akçam's research and activism inform his teaching and public outreach. The first and most prominent Turkish intellectual to write and speak out against Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide, Akçam's voice and scholarship have great impact in both the academic realm and in the human rights arena. Speaking at an event to celebrate Clark's involvement with the Scholars at Risk Network, he described the toll his activism has taken on him personally. "Sometimes I ask myself why I picked this subject. But I feel compelled to do this work."

His influence begins at the Center. "Working with [Akçam] has been one of the most enriching and eye-opening experiences of my academic career," Claims Conference Fellow Kim Partee reflected. "Our discussions challenge me and have led me to reassess the direction of my scholarship." Learning that his teaching has had such a profound impact fills Akçam with pride. "There are practical consequences when students are able to make new links; I feel confident that the students' learning has not been in vain." This is clearly the case for Hausrath Fellow Ümit Kurt. "He has broadened my horizon and opened new avenues to improve my intellectual skills. To work with Taner Akçam is instructive and exciting." For Akçam, engaging with students is equally exciting. His only disappointment is his frustrated desire to train more doctoral students (see page 49) and he seeks to raise much needed fellowship funds.

Akçam's books have earned him a bright international reputation. *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*, his latest book, has been published in 7 languages, most recently in Spanish and Farsi. The Argentine newspaper *Página 12* declared Akçam a "civilian hero" and a "talented intellectual." In Teheran, a local newspaper noted that over 300 people gathered to hear him speak. His successful book tour, including stops throughout South America and Iran, received media acclaim. In Córdoba, Argentina, schoolchildren sang songs in his honor and reveled in his visit. He is as celebrated for the substance of his research as for what it represents: the first steps toward Turkish recognition of the Genocide.

Akçam is currently engaged in pioneering work on *The 1937–1938 Dersim Oral History Project*. The eastern Turkish region of Dersim is home to the cultural group, the Kirmanc. In 1937–1938, some 50,000 of them were



Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor Taner Akçam.

massacred and an unknown number of children were forced from their families and distributed to bureaucrats and army officers for the purpose of assimilation. Vowing to not let these stories go untold, Akçam has spearheaded the collection of oral testimony from Dersim community members. Center Director Debórah Dwork has consulted on the project and traveled to Berlin to help train community members in interview techniques. The next phase will take the initiative to Switzerland, France, Germany, and Turkey to reach the large Kirmanc populations. The pressing goal is to create a public archive of all data and interviews that would be accessible to descendants of the victims, researchers, and the public. At the same time, the interviews will help to preserve the Kirmanci language.

Speaking across the United States and Europe about the Dersim oral history project represents just one aspect of Akçam's public persona. He also delivered talks about Turkish denialism in light of Turkish conceptions of national security and history. Remaining firmly at the forefront of discussions about the Armenian Genocide, Akçam regularly publishes articles and provides an educated voice in the public arena. This year, his media appearances ranged from an interview with Boston Public Radio about his involvement with Amnesty International to an interview with a Turkish television channel.

With a firm pulse on current debates and key topics, Akçam changes his students. One undergraduate commented to him, "Before starting this class I thought I knew a lot about the Middle East, but I actually knew very little about how it came to be this way. Because of you, my interest in Middle East history has been sparked." This student is not alone—Taner Akçam is an inspiration on the Clark campus and beyond.
—Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland

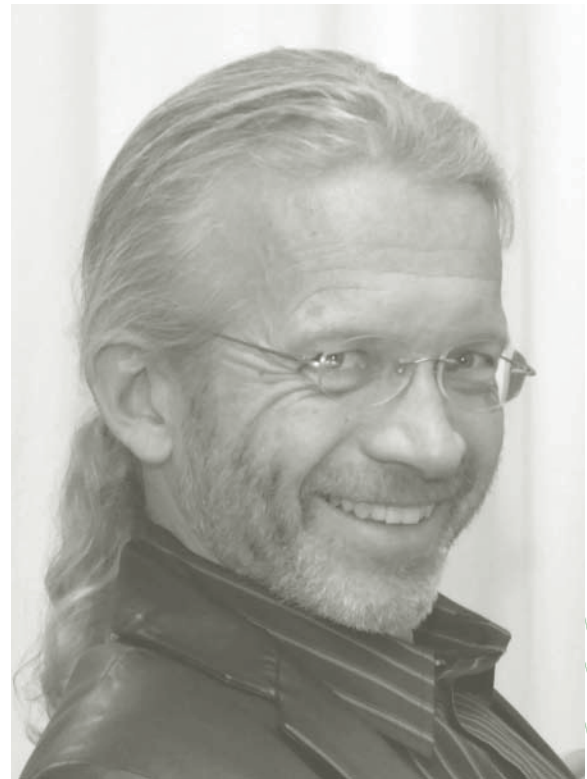
THOMAS KÜHNE

With the publication of *Belonging and Genocide*, his first English-language book (Yale University Press, October 2010), Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne enjoyed a much deserved sabbatical in the rarefied atmosphere of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. Relieved of his daily professorial obligations, he embarked upon a wholly new research project contemplating global ideals of beauty. A highly prestigious fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation supported his project, *Struggling for Beauty: Body Aesthetics and Social Conflict in Modern History*. Grounded in theory and history, this work will explore how western standards of beauty have become embedded in racial and class struggles and dominate world views. He organized a fruitful conference on the topic at the German Historical Institute in Washington D.C. in fall 2010 which will yield an anthology of edited papers (forthcoming from Palgrave in 2012).

Inspired by the theoretical approach to history underlying his work on beauty, Kühne looks forward to shaping his next Holocaust research project differently. His studies of collective violence and collective identity in Nazi Germany have resulted to date in a number of anthologies and two monographs. Kühne now aims to explore these themes in a transnational and comparative context. Considering questions of universalism and cosmopolitanism, he will go beyond national borders to discuss how the Holocaust is memorialized. A January op-ed he published in *The Guardian* on the use and abuse of Holocaust memory in current Europe sketches some of his ideas on the subject.

Ever committed to the Strassler Center doctoral students, Kühne supervised a number of dissertation projects from afar. His return to the Center for two of his students who defended their dissertation proposals was greatly appreciated. Michael Geheran, whose work on Jewish World War I veterans is inspired by Kühne's scholarship on comradeship and the group dynamics of war, remarked, "I value him as an advisor whose good ideas and encouragement advance my developing scholarship." Kühne is determined to foster student excellence and accomplishment. His service as faculty advisor to the First International Doctoral Student Conference in Holocaust and Genocide Studies held at the Strassler Center in spring 2009 is an example of his commitment to students. And he will resume this role for the Second International Doctoral Student Conference, to be held in spring 2012. During his sabbatical, he devoted time to revising and editing manuscripts for the volume *Local History and the Holocaust* that emerged from the 2009 conference. Co-edited with Tom Lawson, the volume appeared this summer as a special double issue of the journal *Holocaust Studies*.

Kühne's sabbatical year at the Institute for Advanced Study proved intellectually vibrant and inspiring. While there, he co-organized a bi-weekly colloquium, as he has done in previous years at Clark. The presentations provided opportunities to learn about the diverse research projects of his colleagues. Freedom from teaching also furnished time to review nearly two dozen books related to the Holocaust for a range of scholarly publications in both English and German. No doubt, his knowledge of new developments in Holocaust scholarship is quite comprehensive. Thomas Kühne has been missed this year; his students and colleagues look forward to his return to Clark refreshed and inspired from his highly productive year in Princeton. —*Mary Jane Rein*



Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne.

LEORA KAHN

Leora Kahn, founder and Executive Director of the non-governmental organization Proof, served as Cathy Cohen Lasry Distinguished Visiting Scholar of Comparative Genocide in spring 2011. Her seminar course, *Human Rights and Media*, attended by Center doctoral students and undergraduate upper classmen, offered new ways to research, study, and document genocides and mass violence. Stern Fellow Sara Brown, the Center's first student to forge a new doctoral track in Comparative Genocide Studies, commented on what she gained from the seminar. "With Professor Kahn's guidance, I developed tools for examining the problem set of gross human rights abuses from an entirely new angle. My time with her, both inside of the classroom and in the many outside-of-class meetings she made space for, was illuminating!"

Kahn's NGO, Proof, uses photography and visual media to educate the public about human rights. To that end, she organizes photo exhibitions at venues around the globe. Her exhibition, *The Rescuers Project*, opened at Yale University in November 2010, the launch of a college tour. Forty photographs from many nations comprise the exhibition *Child Soldiers: Forced to be Cruel*, based on Kahn's book *Child Soldiers*; they are now displayed at Grant MacEwan University in Canada.

With the support of the Compton Foundation and the United States Embassy in Bosnia, Proof mounted *Picturing Moral Courage*, an exhibition on Bosnian rescuers, that opened in the capital city Sarajevo in July. A conference organized in conjunction with the exhibition, *Picturing Moral Courage: Media, Arts, and Social Change*, included presentations by international scholars, practitioners, and policy makers. Doctoral student Sara Brown and HGS concentrator Morgan Sandler '13 helped with the exhibition and Brown assisted with the conference and was one of the presenters. The U.S. Embassy in Bosnia, the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, and the University of Sarajevo were co-sponsors. Kahn's work in Bosnia is supported by a specialist grant of the Fulbright Foundation.

Photographs documenting rescue are a major theme in Kahn's work. In the spring, she was gratified to participate in an event organized by the U.S. State Department commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention related to the status of refugees. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton honored six rescuers who aided victims of the genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda and unveiled photographs of the honorees. Proof has been deeply involved in documenting and celebrating these cases of rescue.

Kahn continues to expand her global reach and the scope of her documentary work. In late summer she embarked on a new project with Youth for Peace, a Cambodian NGO that offers education in peace, leadership, conflict resolution, and reconciliation. A youth street theater project is planned in conjunction with the rescuers exhibit, slated to travel around Cambodia. The fall will bring her to Guatemala where she will collaborate with local photographers on developing work for social change. Facility with media of all types, a compelling mission, and a track record of success make Kahn's work compelling to Clark students and faculty. Her presence enriched the Center.

—Mary Jane Rein



Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Scholar Leora Kahn.

OLGA LITVAK

Leffell Professor of Jewish Studies, Olga Litvak, serves as a valued resource to the Strassler Center community. In addition to offering her flagship course on Eastern European Jewish history in fall 2010, Professor Litvak taught a new course on the history of modern Israel, an important addition to Clark's offerings in Jewish Studies. As part of her on-going exploration of the boundaries between classical Jewish texts and vernacular literature, she is developing a new seminar on "Jewish Popular Culture." Her expertise in the area of pre-war Russian and Eastern European history recommends her to Center doctoral students and she has been pleased to mentor many of them. "This year I served on a dissertation committee, advising a project from the ground. It has been a unique opportunity to see how the courses I teach are absorbed and reintegrated into someone's intellectual work," she observed.

Ever productive, Litvak is working on a variety of scholarly projects. She continues to write *Making Marc Chagall* and was pleased to present her findings at a conference on the idea of the "Jewish Renaissance" at the University of Virginia. Litvak spent the spring semester in-residence as a Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. The leave provided her with time to complete her book manuscript *Haskalah*, due out from Rutgers University Press in 2012 as part of the series *Keywords in Jewish Studies*. Her biographical study of the preeminent Yiddish author Sholem-aleichem was the subject of spring lectures given at Wesleyan University and the University of Texas, Austin.

Olga Litvak is first and foremost a historian, but her polymath interests in Jewish art, literature, and culture underlie her work. An exhibition of two paintings, by Russian Jewish artist Felix Lembersky, depicting the 1941 massacre of Ukrainian Jews at Babi Yar furnished the opportunity to discuss Soviet Jewry at the Brandeis University Rose Art Museum in March. The following month, Litvak presented her work on the "double-life" of modern Hebrew in Russian-Jewish culture at Harvard's Starr Seminar. Litvak's most recent published work appeared in the *Jewish Review of Books* and in a collection of essays about everyday Jewish life in imperial Russia, a volume honoring the memory of John Klier, a distinguished historian of

Russian Jewry who died in 2007. Litvak spent the summer writing an essay surveying the history of the Jews in Russia and the Soviet Union for the *Cambridge History of Judaism*—as well as an introductory essay for a collection of articles dealing with translations of Sholem-aleichem's work into European languages.

"It has been gratifying to see students make connections between my research and their work," Litvak commented. And her students, for their part, observe that "she is academically challenging and inspiring but always extremely supportive." Her broad interests and incisive scholarship command Strassler Center students'—and faculty—admiration and trigger their inspiration. —*Mary Jane Rein*



Leffell Professor Olga Litvak.

SHELLY TENENBAUM

A concern for teaching and a deep interest in pedagogy animate the work of Sociology Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, the Center's Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities (CUA). Her reputation as a top rated undergraduate teacher yields full enrollments, even over subscription, in her courses in Sociology and Genocide Studies. She is one of only two Clark faculty to twice receive Clark's Outstanding Teaching Award. In her capacity overseeing the undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies concentration, since its inception, she has built an extensive menu of diverse course offerings.

"Encouraging my colleagues to develop coursework that is truly interdisciplinary and that enriches undergraduate learning opportunities is genuinely exciting for me," said Tenenbaum. To that end, she has expanded course offerings for the coming year, persuading Taner Akçam to teach a new introductory comparative genocide course; Anita Fábos to develop a new course on Sudan; and Johanna Vollhardt a new psychology of genocide course. With her sights set on other colleagues, additional courses and programs on film, literature, music, art, theater, and education as well as on genocide in Asia will follow. At the same time, Tenenbaum is deeply engaged in thinking about how best to serve the undergraduate concentration by reconfiguring its requirements. She envisions clusters of core courses that will produce expertise in particular cases of genocide but built on a broad base of knowledge. Indeed, her long service teaching the gateway course, *Genocide*, has provided the foundational knowledge for a host of undergraduates.

As CUA, Tenenbaum organizes the annual *Especially for Students* Lectures. This year she was gratified to host her former student, Naama Haviv '00, MA (ABD) '06, Assistant Director of the Los Angeles-based, anti-genocide organization Jewish World Watch (see page 4). Haviv's presentation on her fact-finding mission to Congo culminated with a call to action that mobilized students from Clark's chapter of STAND (A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition) for which Tenenbaum serves as faculty advisor. With Tenenbaum's support, the students successfully lobbied Clark's trustees and administration to adopt a conflict-free minerals policy. "This is what I love: seeing students get inspired by an idea and then moving with it," Tenenbaum remarked. They have moved quite a bit this year thanks to the ideas Haviv seeded and thanks to the mentoring students

enjoy from Tenenbaum. STAND leaders have helped to organize a multidisciplinary international summit, *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo* that will bring together activists, scholars, and policy makers (www.clarku.edu/informedactivism).

The events Tenenbaum organizes for HGS undergraduates frequently reverberate across campus. A previous speaker in the *Especially for Students* series was Mark Hanis, founder of the Genocide Intervention Network (GIN). Hanis's 2006 lecture inspired undergraduates to establish a chapter of STAND, the student division of GIN. Tenenbaum will mount two events next year: in fall, Cheryl Hamilton '01 will return to Clark to perform her one-woman show *Checkered Floors* about Somali immigrants in Maine (co-sponsored with the Higgins School, the Political Science Department, and the Theater Program) and in spring, University of Minnesota Professor David Feinberg will discuss *Voice to Vision*, a multimedia project that engages genocide survivors in the creation of art that reflects their stories (co-sponsored with the Higgins School and the Department of Visual and Performing Arts). The commitment to collaboration and interdisciplinarity are hallmarks of Tenenbaum's work on behalf of undergraduates.

Beyond her service to the Center, Tenenbaum takes pedagogy seriously in her scholarship. She chairs the pedagogy working group of the Association of Jewish Studies. Each year she participates in organizing a panel for their annual meeting that advances interdisciplinary teaching in Jewish Studies programs around the globe. During her 2009–2010 sabbatical, she researched the relationship between Jewish philanthropy and Jewish Studies. She has collected empirical data that will form the basis for a future project which will no doubt shed light on best practices in teaching. —*Mary Jane Rein*



Professor Shelley Tenenbaum, Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities.



Professor Jaan Valsiner.

JAAK VALSINER

At the end of its third year, the doctoral track in Psychology and Genocide is flourishing, thanks to the robust partnership between the Strassler Center and the Psychology Department. Jaan Valsiner, Professor of Cultural and Social Psychology, leads the effort to integrate traditional historical methods with other multi-disciplinary analyses. Along with Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne, he advises Weil Fellow Christina Andriani and has been active in mentoring her dissertation on post-Holocaust trauma and its impact on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Valsiner also mentors Center students in independent reading seminars that emphasize psychological methods in assessing the roles of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders of mass violence. “My goal is to introduce historians to what psychology can offer,” Valsiner declares. “Not merely to use historical evidence for psychological evaluation, but to evaluate people’s actions and behaviors. This is crucial if we hope to expose the early signs of genocide.”

Jaan’s insights into identity and meaning construction provided the impetus for my doctoral research, when I was a graduate student, and continue to influence my work today. —Katrin Kullasepp, Professor of Psychology, Tallinn University, Estonia

Internationally renowned, Valsiner has been key to securing Clark’s reputation as a leading research institution in Psychology. In October 2010, he helped to organize the *6th International Conference on the Dialogical Self* in Athens, Greece, which gathered scholars from across the globe to present work on inner dialogue and identity formation. Participants, recognizing Valsiner as a leader in the development of cultural psychology, packed seminar rooms to attend his talk on using psychological methods to study the Holocaust. Having participated in Valsiner’s advanced doctoral seminar in spring 2010, I felt privileged to attend the Athens conference with him and to present my research on the dual German-Jewish self-identities of Holocaust survivor Victor Klemperer. Working with Valsiner helped me appreciate how a multidisciplinary approach can impart crucial facets of identity construction and coping behaviors to historians and yield new insights into living through crisis.

Valsiner promotes a lively academic culture that erases barriers between students and faculty. He invites students to challenge dominant paradigms and to explore new ways of looking at complex issues. “Jaan changed my life,” Dr. Brady Wagoner, a former undergraduate advisee, now Associate Professor of Psychology at Aalborg University in Denmark, declared. “He provides guidance but in a way that enhances rather than impedes students’ self-driven development. He always takes students’ ideas very seriously as real innovators in the discipline.”

Valsiner’s publications reach an international audience. In addition to numerous journal articles, he recently completed the manuscript of his latest book, *A Guided Science: History of Psychology in the Mirror of its Making* (forthcoming from Transaction Publications, 2012), which investigates the emergence and development of psychology as a social science over the past century. As founder and editor of *Culture & Psychology*, Valsiner draws upon a multinational group of scholars who serve on the editorial board.

Strassler Center faculty and students are privileged to count Jaan Valsiner among their colleagues. His expertise and commitment to teaching reinforce the Center’s mission to educate future scholars by emphasizing the centrality of human behavior in Holocaust and genocide studies. —*Michael Geheran*

JOHANNA RAY VOLLHARDT

Productive and dedicated, Assistant Professor of Psychology Johanna Ray Vollhardt enjoyed a full year of research and teaching. Among her many accomplishments, she spurred the growth of a vibrant network of psychology scholars who study genocide. Her groundbreaking conference *Psychology of Genocide and its Aftermath* (see page 8), in October 2010, hosted leading psychology scholars. “It is crucial to create a network of scholars in this field,” observed Vollhardt. “It is important to link scholars with each other to offer support and motivation. The idea is to stimulate more research, more writing on these under-studied topics.”

Her efforts to build intellectual community extend across national borders. This year alone, Vollhardt established links with the Centre for Research in Political Psychology at Queen’s University Belfast (Northern Ireland); the Center for Conflict Studies at Marburg University (Germany); and the Center for Research on Prejudice at Warsaw University (Poland). Her commitment to international scholarship is further demonstrated by her work as co-editor on a special issue of the *Journal of Social Issues*, “The Aftermath of Genocide: Psychological Perspectives.” With ten contributions from scholars in various sub-disciplines of psychology and from several countries, Vollhardt’s co-edited special issue highlights her success in bringing together scholars in this burgeoning field. Indeed, she is becoming known as a scholar who promotes cutting-edge research.

During summer 2011, Vollhardt taught a course on ethnic conflict at Warsaw University, which strengthened the institutional links between Clark and Warsaw. This year Vollhardt co-authored a book chapter with Warsaw University Professor Michal Bilewicz on psychological processes in genocide. They also collaborated on a study of the transformation of stereotypes during genocide.

In addition to important research projects and international bridge building, Vollhardt is devoted to teaching. Third-year doctoral student Cristina Andriani remarked, “Quite simply, Dr. Vollhardt is amazing. As a mentor, she is very dedicated and focused. She puts 100 percent of herself into her work, and it shows in the way she carefully designs her courses, and pushes students to be analytical.” This fall, Vollhardt developed a graduate seminar on “The Social Psychology of Ethnic Violence and its Aftermath,” which she described as “lively and interdisciplinary based on the students’ range of perspectives.” Graduate students from HGS, Psychology, and International Development enrolled in the course and considered it a great success.



Professor Johanna Ray Vollhardt.

One of Vollhardt’s main research interests aligns perfectly with an international summit the Center will host in the fall about armed conflict and Africa (www.clarku.edu/informedactivism). Vollhardt is involved with a large-scale survey and impact evaluation of radio programs designed to promote reconciliation. The programs, produced by the international NGO Radio La Benevolencija, are broadcast in Burundi, Rwanda, and Eastern Congo. In collaboration with Radio La Benevolencija, local researchers, and her colleague Professor Rezarta Bilali of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Vollhardt designed and supervised surveys in each country. The aim is to understand the impact of such reconciliation programming. The plot lines are entertaining, but they also educate the public about the links between unresolved trauma and violence. The surveys were conducted with representative samples from each region of the country (with over 1000 participants in Burundi, 800 in Rwanda, and 1500 in Eastern Congo), among adults ages 16–80. Vollhardt is now in the data analysis phase, and is delighted that the Center’s work is growing in areas that resonate with her expertise.

Exploring the psychology of perpetrators, victims, and bystanders is fundamental to gaining a better understanding of genocide. Johanna Ray Vollhardt is advancing the work of the Strassler Center through engaged participation, thoughtful research, and active mentoring. —Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland

PROGRAM FACULTY

The following faculty participate in the Center's life and programs.
We are grateful to all for their contributions of scholarship, expertise, and teaching.

Taner Akçam, Ph.D., History Department
Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History

Paul Burke, Ph.D., Foreign Languages and Literatures Department
Professor of Classics

Debórah Dwork, Ph.D., History Department
Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Rose Professor of Holocaust History

Jody Emel, Ph.D., Graduate School of Geography
Professor of Geography

Anita Fábos, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change

Everett Fox, Ph.D., Foreign Languages and Literatures Department
Director, Jewish Studies Concentration, Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies

Thomas Kühne, Ph.D., History Department
Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

Olga Litvak, Ph.D., History Department
Leffell Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History

Wendy Lower, Ph.D., Historisches Seminar, Ludwig Maximilian University
Affiliate Associate Professor

Ken MacLean, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change

Toby Sisson, M.F.A., Department of Visual and Performing Arts
Assistant Professor of Studio Art

Srinivasan Sitaraman, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Associate Professor of Political Science

Valerie Sperling, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Professor of Political Science

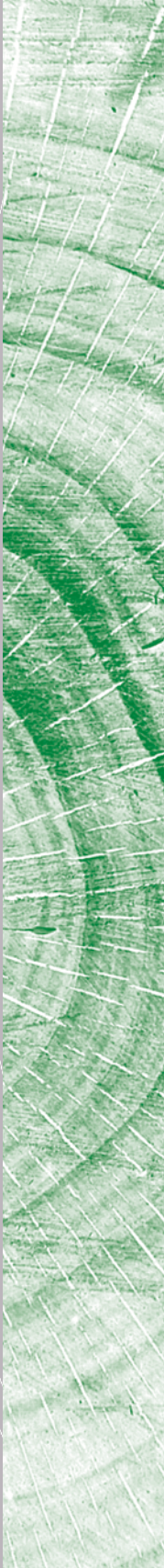
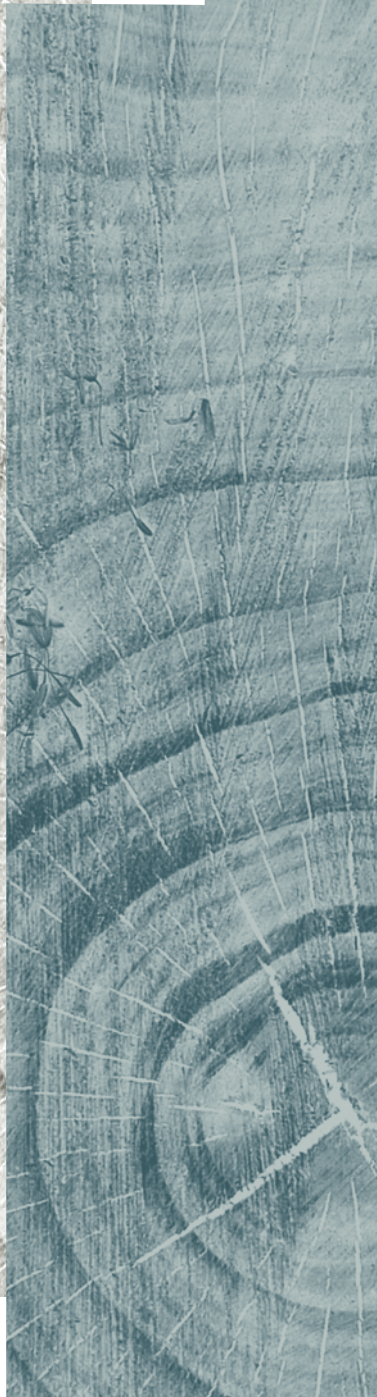
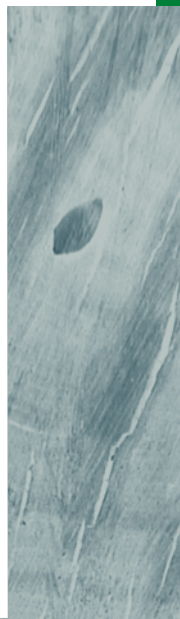
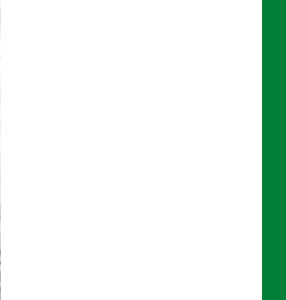
Shelly Tenenbaum, Ph.D., Sociology Department
Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities, Professor of Sociology

Robert Tobin, Ph.D., Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Henry J. Leir Professor in Foreign Languages and Cultures

Jaan Valsiner, Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology
Professor of Psychology

Johanna Ray Vollhardt, Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Kristen Williams, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Associate Professor of Political Science





STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Students in the Strassler Center program bring unique perspectives with different accents. As a result, discussions are complex, diverse, and fruitful.

Center graduates are now making their mark upon the field. Their scholarly excellence and engagement with public education highlight the success of the program.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Highly motivated and talented, the students in the Strassler Center doctoral program enter through a highly competitive admissions process and many have completed post-graduate degrees elsewhere. Seriousness of purpose is a pre-requisite. By the end of year one, students have completed a proto-proposal that becomes the foundation for their dissertation project, and they undertake meaningful research in archives during their first summer break. By the time they return to campus for their second year, students know if the dissertation project they envisioned is feasible; if primary source materials are adequate to support their research plans.

Dissertation projects take shape in the Tobak student offices, located on the third floor of the Center's home, Cohen Lasry House. The demands of strenuous coursework, comprehensive oral examinations, teaching assistant responsibilities, and their innovative research projects are eased by the collegial atmosphere in the Tobak offices. Mentoring relationships flourish thanks, in part, to a program that partners students for field exam preparation. During the spring semester, three students sailed through their exams and four defended their thesis proposals before the Center community and their dissertation committees. Supported by an impressive range of fellowships, they move on to research in far-flung archives. In years four and five, students confront the challenges and rewards of full-time doctoral research and writing. The research and activities reported here point to the range of topics these students pursue and their extraordinary commitment to scholarly inquiry.

CRISTINA ANDRIANI

Weil Fellow Cristina Andriani has been pleased to hold the first Center fellowship in Psychology of Genocide and to watch this innovative track flourish as she progresses through her doctoral studies. Indeed, she was profiled for a widely carried AP news story that reported on this unique interdisciplinary initiative. She was closely involved with the fall conference, *The Psychology of Genocide and its Aftermath* (see page 8), which showcased the value of this approach to leading scholars and practitioners.

Andriani has thoughtfully managed the dual requirements and expectations of the Strassler Center and the Psychology Department. Faculty members from both departments were present for her successful defense of her dissertation proposal. With that milestone behind her, Andriani launched into the quantitative section of her research and began to gather data from the online survey she designed for Jewish-Israelis residing in Israel. Her dissertation, *A weapon of war or a tool for peace? Holocaust collective memory meaning making within the Palestinian-Israeli conflict* seeks to answer two key questions: How does meaning making of past Holocaust trauma affect Jewish-Israelis' understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? And, how does the experience of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict affect Jewish-Israeli meaning making of collective Holocaust memory? Conducting detailed interviews with groups of Jewish-Israelis in Israel, she intends to compare narratives and identify themes that differentiate how Holocaust memory is constructed among those holding dovish views and those with hawkish views.

ELIZABETH ANTHONY

Fromson Fellow Elizabeth Anthony spent her fourth year of doctoral study in Vienna where she continued research on her dissertation, *Return Home: Holocaust Survivors Reestablishing Lives in Postwar Vienna*. Recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, she discussed her research and the practicalities of doctoral study in the United States as part of a panel presentation for the Austrian-American Fulbright Commission. Anthony also enjoyed the opportunity to speak about the experiences of Jewish women who returned to Austria after World War II at the Theodor Kramer Gesellschaft, an organization founded to explore the life and work of the Austrian Jewish poet Theodor Kramer and to disseminate the literature of exile and resistance.

Vienna is rich in archival repositories. Anthony explored the collections of the University of Vienna's Institute of Contemporary History, Simon Wiesenthal Documentation Centre and Archive, the archive of the Viennese Jewish Community, the Vienna City Archives, the Documentation Archive of Austrian Resistance, and



Boston based string quartet QX performs the music of Victor Ullmann in Debórah Dwork's graduate seminar, *Rescue and Resistance during the Holocaust*.

the Austrian National Library. Complementing her essential archival work, she interviewed survivors. Anthony also facilitated a weekly English conversation group at Vienna's Jewish nursing home, the Maimonides Zentrum, which she found especially gratifying.

Recipient of a Barbara and Richard Rosenberg Fellowship, Anthony returned to the U.S. to sift through key archives at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum this summer.

SARA BROWN

Sara Brown, the Center's first Stern Fellow in Comparative Genocide, is researching the role of women, as bystanders, rescuers, and perpetrators in the genocide and mass violence that occurred in Rwanda and Burundi. She preceeded her first year of doctoral study with a two-month trip to Central Africa. In the Rwandan capital Kigali, Brown organized, facilitated, and participated in a symposium of graduate students from the Interdisciplinary Center (Herzliya, Israel) and the National University of Rwanda. Volunteering at the Kigali Genocide Memorial's online archive, she researched audio visual testimonies, transcripts, and original publications about the 1994 genocide. She also explored materials at the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) Documentation Center. Eager to establish productive contacts, she met with representatives from the ICTR, the Ibukabose Rwanda Memorial, the Rwandan Survivors Fund, the AVEGA Association for the support of Widows and Orphans of the Genocide, United Nations peacekeeping forces, the Kigali Genocide Memorial, Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, Miracle Corners of the World, Radio la Benevolencija, and the Ministry of Education. Brown sought to establish contacts in Burundi too, meeting with the Lutheran World Services director, the International Rescue Committee and Radio la Benevolencija.

Brown's proposal to provide comparative genocide training for Rwandan ministry personnel was accepted by the Clinton Global Initiative University, and she attended the April CGIU conference for students who want to "make a difference." Returning to the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, where she received a 2010 MA in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies, she spoke about "Post-Genocide Reconstruction Policy in Rwanda." An invitation followed to speak about "Reconstruction in Post-Genocide Rwanda." The summer took her back to Africa where she continued her research and was interviewed by "Voice of Africa." Traveling to Europe, Brown was pleased to help Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Scholar Leora Kahn mount a conference, "Media, Arts, and Social Change," in Sarajevo and to run a workshop, "Playing Your Way to Peace."



Center doctoral students at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) visiting Professor Thomas Kühne (center).

EMILY DABNEY

Emily Dabney, the Center's Richard P. Cohen, M.D. Fellow, continued to research her dissertation, *Forced Labor in the Maghreb*. During the fall, supported by a fellowship from the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, she explored documents at the National Library of Morocco in Rabat. Reading Vichy decrees and letters by family members pleading for the release of a loved one from labor camps in the geographical and cultural context in which it happened, more than fifty years ago, breathed life and nuance into the material. At the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies, an arm of the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, she delved into the extensive library on Moroccan history. With her work done in Rabat, she returned to France to visit the French Military Archives at Chateau de Vincennes. This vast government cache offered another lens through which to view wartime Morocco. Rather than center stage, the events unfolding in the Maghreb were situated amid a constellation of wartime concerns, as viewed by the military elite in France.

The unfolding revolutions across the Arab world in spring upended Dabney's plan to continue her research in North Africa. She has rescheduled her Tunisia research trip for fall when she will explore the National Archives in Tunis and the Institut Supérieur d'Histoire du Mouvement National on the campus of Manouba University. Recipient of a Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellowship, Dabney spent the summer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where she examined microfilmed documents from the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation at the Shoah Memorial in Paris, the Overseas Archives in Aix-en-Provence, and the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia.

MICHAEL GEHERAN

Claims Conference Fellow Michael Geheran devoted his third year to preparing—successfully—for his comprehensive exams and for the defense of his dissertation proposal, *Betrayed Comradeship: German-Jewish World War I Veterans under Hitler*. Before relocating to Germany, where he will devote his fourth year to research in German archives, he explored the National Archives in Washington, DC, and Houghton Library at Harvard University, which houses a collection of autobiographical accounts by German Jews who fled Germany in the 1930s. Awarded research fellowships from both the Fulbright Commission and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), he turns his attention to German archives to continue his search for personal papers and official documents related to German-Jewish World War I veterans who lived in Nazi Germany.

A frequent conference participant, Geheran delivered “I am fighting the hardest battle for my Germanness now’: Internal Dialogues of Victor Klemperer,” at the *6th International Conference on the Dialogical Self* in Athens, Greece. Using selected sequences of inner dialogue found throughout Klemperer’s diaries, Geheran’s presentation aimed to situate his identity struggle within the context of Dialogical-Self Theory and examine how inner dialogue shaped his self-understanding as a German and a Jew. Working closely with Psychology Professor Jaan Valsiner, Geheran is revising his paper for publication in late 2011. He also presented his dissertation research at the Lessons and Legacies conference in Boca Raton, FL. His paper, “Betrayed Comradeship: German-Jewish WWI Veterans and the Holocaust,” explored the responses, survival strategies, behavior, and attitudes of Jewish veterans during the Nazi period and offered

insights into how ordinary Germans, especially World War I veterans and professional soldiers, condoned the persecution and murder of their former comrades. He was also invited to discuss his latest research findings at a conference of military historians and doctoral students hosted by The Ohio State University, *Military Frontiers: A Graduate Symposium*.

ADARA GOLDBERG

Adara Goldberg is pleased to hold the Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellowship. She spent her fifth and final year in Toronto, where she completed research and wrote four chapters for her dissertation, “*We Were Called Greenies: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada*.” Exploring the resettlement, integration, and acculturation experiences of Holocaust survivors, she examines the development of relationships between survivors, Jewish social service agencies, and the Jewish lay community. Goldberg sifted through archives in Ontario and Quebec, including those of the Anglican Archdiocese, and she returned to the Strassler Center to further investigate Shoah Foundation testimonies, accessible in the Rose Library. She examined testimonies of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Canada during the second movement of resettlement in the 1950s, focusing on Israeli transmigrants, the elderly, and Hassidim. She also conducted a final wave of interviews with child survivors and former union members sponsored for immigration as laborers in the late 1940s. A Kirsch Award, granted by the Strassler Center, contributed toward defraying her research expenses.

Eager to engage with the public, Goldberg presented “Meet the Greenies,” to a Na’amat Toronto chapter and her lecture was selected as the group’s Outstanding Program of the Year. She participated in several conferences, speaking on “Keeping the Faith” at



Center doctoral students.

Crossroads & Borders: Negotiating Space, Identities and Cultures, Graduate Conference at Concordia University; “No Place for Us: Hassidic Youth in Postwar Canada” at the *Seventh Annual Graduate History Symposium*, University of Toronto, and “Left in the West: Orphaned Holocaust Survivors in Western Canada,” at a conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, hosted by the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton and St. Thomas University. Goldberg enjoyed contributing to a classroom resource booklet on the *S.S. St. Louis* and the Wheel of Conscience monument, designed by Daniel Libeskind and funded by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Government of Canada's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's Community Historical Recognition Program. Finally, she looks forward to the publication of “‘We Were Called Greenies:’ Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada,” in Daniel Maoz and Andrea Gondos, eds., *From Antiquity to the Post-Modern World: Contemporary Jewish Studies in Canada* (forthcoming in 2011).

ALEXIS HERR

Claims Conference Fellow Alexis Herr devoted her fourth year of doctoral study to research on her dissertation, *Fossoli di Carpi: 1942–1952*. Infamous as Fossoli was during the war, there is no study of it in English, and very little in Italian. Herr considers its many transformations through to the post-war period. Fossoli served as a prisoner of war camp for Allied soldiers and a detention camp for Libyan Jews captured in Italy's North African colonies (1942–3); it was transformed into a deportation camp for Jews and antifascists in 1943. In the immediate post-war period, the camp became a prison for fascist sympathizers and a relocation camp for foreigners caught without papers (1945–7). Thus, inmates included Nazis hiding in Italy after the war and Jews who emerged from hiding only to be arrested for lack of visas. From 1948 to 1952, the camp was repurposed as a Catholic orphanage named Nomadelfia.

Herr's research took her to archives throughout Italy, including the Italian State Archives in Rome and Modena, the Vatican Archives, the Archives of the Seminario Vescovile di Carpi, the City of Carpi, and the Memory of the Deportation Foundation. She concluded her research trip in Grosseto, Tuscany where she lived with the Nomadelfia, a thriving Catholic community of some 270 individuals. Don Zeno, the priest responsible for transforming Fossoli into an orphanage in the postwar era, moved the community to Grosseto in 1952. The Nomadelfi live in family units of 30; they share a house, garden, and meals. Assigned to a family unit, Herr participated in chores from cooking to maintaining vineyards. While there, she also conducted research in the archives, thus learning about the history of Nomadelfia through its people and its historical documents.

Ever pleased to discuss her project, Herr presented “Fossoli di Carpi: From Deportation Camp to Catholic Orphanage” at the Northeastern Modern Languages Association Conference at Rutgers University. With the support of a fellowship from the National Institute for the History of the Liberation Movement in Italy, in collaboration with the Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation, Herr plans a fall trip to Milan where she will conduct research in libraries and archives.

STEFAN IONESCU

Rose Fellow Stefan Ionescu completed his fifth year of doctoral study based in Worcester and fully engaged with his dissertation, *Opportunism, Ideology, and Resistance in World War II Bucharest: Gentile and Jewish Responses to the Romanianization of Economic Life during the Antonescu Regime 1940–1944*. Ionescu examines how different groups of Romanians—Jews, ethnic Romanians, and other non-Jewish Bucuresteni—reacted to the process of Romanianization, and its effects on individuals and local communities. His intensive research in Romanian archives, specifically the Bucharest Municipal Archives and the Romanian National Historical Archives, yielded rich materials: complaints, denunciations, petitions, internal memos, reports, statistics, diaries, letters, and memoirs. These diverse documents led Ionescu to consider the complexity of human participation and responsibility during perilous times, such as the Holocaust. He was grateful for additional support during his fifth year of research and writing, provided by the Center's Hilda and Al Kirsch Award.

Already much published, Ionescu authored two new articles and a book chapter: “Implementing the Romanianization of Employment in 1941 Bucharest: Bureaucratic and Economic Sabotage of the ‘Aryanisation’ of the Romanian Economy,” published in *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* (Summer/Autumn, 2010), “Perpetrators, Bystanders, and Rescuers: Popular Attitudes towards Ottoman Christians during the Armenian Genocide,” in *Studia Politica* (forthcoming in 2011), and “Esecul Romanizarii Economiei Iasului in Perioada Ulterioara Pogromului: 1941–1944,” in Liviu Rotman (ed.), *Memorie si Istorie Evreiasca* (Bucharest 2011). Now returned to Bucharest, he presses forward with his dissertation work supported by a prestigious award, the Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies.

ÜMIT KURT

Ümit Kurt began his doctoral studies as the Center's second Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow. A native of Aintab, Turkey, he investigates the involvement and attitudes of local and provincial elites during the Armenian Genocide in his home city. His research will establish the activities of these socio-economic groups in Aintab and the extent of their concrete support for the genocidal policies of the Union and Progress Party. He seeks to establish their economic, political, and ideological motivations. Official Turkish historiography holds that Unionist cadres, who carried out the Armenian deportation and Genocide, lacked grassroots support and social legitimacy in actualizing it. Kurt plans to challenge this established view.

Kurt's preliminary research in Turkish archives persuades him that materials are available for his project. The Ottoman archives in Istanbul contain records on Aintab and the Prime Minister's Archives in Istanbul hold documents on Aintabzy Armenians from the 1880s–1921. In Aintab, property records in the department of revenue will prove useful to reconstructing how Armenian properties were confiscated and allotted to others. Interviews with elderly people have yielded secondhand details, gleaned from their grandfathers, about Armenian deportations from Aintab. Kurt also traveled to Aleppo where he investigated what happened to Armenians who, in 1921, escaped Aintab alongside French troops. He honed his language skills in an intensive Armenian language course in Venice and he intends to put it to use by exploring Armenian sources.

Invited to attend the fall conference *Islam and Secularism in Contemporary Turkey* at Stanford University, Kurt presented "Military's Perceptions on Islam and Secularism in Contemporary Turkey." He also participated in a workshop, "Oral Histories of Armenian Genocide," at UCLA; he considered it an excellent opportunity to learn from prominent genocide scholars.



Hevrony Family Fellow Natalya Lazar.

NATALYA LAZAR

Proud to hold the Hevrony Family Fellowship, Natalya Lazar completed her third year with the successful defense of her dissertation. In her study, *The Fate of Czernowitz Jews: Genocide and Memory in Bukovina*, she will analyze the situation in Czernowitz and in the Bukovynian countryside, comparing the character of relations between Jews and gentiles, as well as the social, cultural, religious, and political dimensions of Jews' daily lives in both contexts. Her study encompasses the interwar years, the Holocaust, and the post-war period. Lazar reviewed testimonies of Czernowitz Jews in the Shoah Visual History Archive, facilitated by the Center's access to this material. Conducting research in her home city, she sifted through materials from the Chernivtsi State Archive in Ukraine, culling Romanian occupation period documents, Soviet postwar reports evaluating human and economic losses in the region, and survivor testimonies collected in 1985–1996 in Chernivtsi oblast. In 1941, the Romanian gendarmerie began to investigate the political activities of Jews during the Soviet occupation. Lazar found police reports and documents denouncing local Jews as Communist agents disloyal to the Romanian state, furnishing ideological justification for the policies to deport Jews to Transnistria.

Having passed her comprehensive exams with distinction and defended her dissertation prospectus, Lazar is prepared for a full year of research in Ukraine, Romania, and possibly back in the United States. She is the recipient of a raft of awards including a research grant from the Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies (School of Geography and Environment, Oxford University), and a highly selective Black Sea Link Fellowship from New Europe College, an independent Romanian institute for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences.

JODY RUSSELL MANNING

In his fourth year of doctoral study, Tapper Fellow Jody Russell Manning continued research on his dissertation, *Living in the Shadows of Auschwitz and Dachau: Memorial, Community, Symbolism, and the Palimpsest of Memory*, which analyzes the relationship between two Holocaust memorials and their local communities through a comparative study of the towns of Oświęcim and Dachau. Recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, Manning lived in Oświęcim and continued his past work with the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. His faculty mentors were Professors Annamaria Orla-Bukowska and Marek Kucia of Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Opportunities thus emerged to present his research to students at Jagiellonian.

Manning's archival research and interviews with Poles, Germans, and Israelis proved highly productive. In Oświęcim, he plumbed numerous collections. He conducted interviews with Oświęcim residents, including mayor Janusz Marszałek, recorded oral histories, and examined a cache of letters written by young people describing life in a city continually and symbolically linked to its past. In Warsaw, he carried out research in the Archive of New Records and at the Jewish Historical Institute. He continued his study of negotiating Holocaust memory on the local level in Dachau where he interviewed residents, again including the mayor, Peter Bürgel. They discussed how a local government deals with its Nazi-era past. In Israel, Manning examined the archives at Yad Vashem and interviewed Israeli guides who work in Poland. He discussed contemporary Holocaust memory with the educational director of the Massuah Institute for the Study of the Holocaust. Most interesting was an interview with Moshe Sinai, mayor of Rosh Ha'ayin, who recently ended discussion of cooperating with the city of Dachau following harsh criticism.

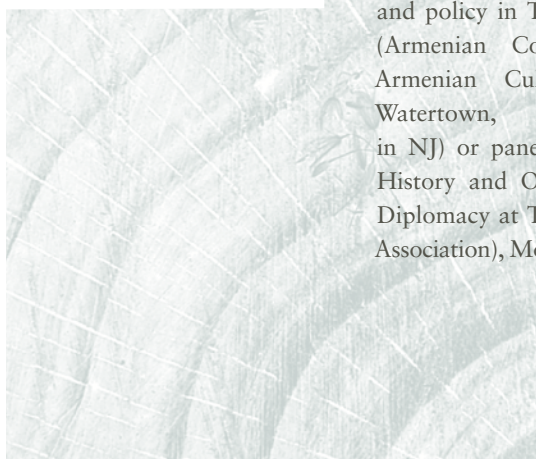
Ever productive, Manning completed work with the Auschwitz Jewish Center and Warsaw University on a study about local attitudes toward the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and its visitors. Finally, he published "The Palimpsest of Memory: Auschwitz and Oświęcim," in Thomas Kühne and Tom Lawson (eds.), *The Holocaust and Local History* (2011).

KHATCHIG MOURADIAN

Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow Khatchig Mouradian made great progress during his second year of doctoral study. In his dissertation, *Destruction and Agency in Der Zor*, he reconstructs the fate of Armenians sent to concentration camps in Der Zor, Syria from 1915 to 1916. Newspaper articles, memoirs, literary works, and oral history identify Der Zor as the central site of the Armenian Genocide. Yet a dearth of scholarship on genocidal developments at Der Zor has emboldened denialist historians to dismiss what happened there as resettlement. Focusing on a region often referred to as "the Auschwitz of the Armenian Genocide," and drawing from Armenian, Arabic, and Turkish sources, Mouradian addresses questions of decision making and implementation by the perpetrators and the resistance and agency of the victims.

Archival research during the summer months furnished a wealth of material. At the Mkhitarist Monastery in Vienna, which holds the largest collection of Armenian newspapers, Mouradian examined newspapers printed throughout the Middle East and Turkey immediately after World War I. They describe deportations and massacres at the village level, publishing orphan lists and survivor accounts. In Lebanon, Mouradian worked in the library of Haigazian University and in the archives of the Armenian Catholicosate in Antelias. Traveling to Armenia, he resumed research in the National Library in Yerevan.

Mouradian speaks widely on the Armenian Genocide. He presented "100 Years of Solidarity: Humanitarian Resistance and Empowerment in ARS History" at the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies symposium on the centennial of the Armenian Relief Society. A frequent guest lecturer at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, he presented "Hearing the Footsteps of Dawn: The Armenian Genocide in Modern Turkish Consciousness;" he lectured for a human rights course via Skype; and his lecture, "Raphael Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide," was part of the *Forgotten Genocides* Lecture Series. At the conference, *Genocide and Then What? The Law, Ethics, and Politics of Making Amends*, organized by UCLA's International Human Rights Law Association, he discussed "Reparations, but what before? Problems of perception, discourse, and policy in Turkey." Speaking at community events (Armenian Community Center in Albany, N.Y., Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Watertown, MA, The Knights of Vartan in NJ) or panel discussions (Clark University, Facing History and Ourselves, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, the New York City Bar Association), Mouradian is as informed as he is passionate.



MICHAEL NOLTE

Strassler Center Fellow Michael Nolte profited greatly from his first year of study and research. His initial intention to write his dissertation about the death marches at war's end continues, but with new cases and questions in view. Nolte now seeks to move geographically from the killing sites in the East to Germany, to illustrate how the Holocaust came back to the Reich. He intends to research Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, and Bergen-Belsen. Integrating the death marches into the history of Nazi mass murder, Nolte will drill down on the question of continuity and change. His initial research suggests that the machinery of death, which rested on a blend of individual agency, conflicting orders, and overlapping responsibilities, held fast until the end. In the context of the losing war effort, he will consider several questions. How does the system of mass murder transform during the last months of National Socialism? What is the relationship between German economic and ideological interests? How did the concentration camps transform during this period? Finally, he will consider forms of resistance during the death marches and in the closing phases of the camps.

Seeking insight into victims, Nolte studied survivor testimonies from the Shoah Visual History Archive and the testimonies of German political prisoners at the German Resistance Documentary Archives in Frankfurt-am-Main. And he worked in the archives at the USHMM and the Bergen-Belsen Memorial.



Hausrath fellow Ümit Kurt (left), and Center fellow Michael Nolte (right).

KIMBERLY PARTEE

Claims Conference Fellow Kimberly Partee completed a busy and productive second year at the Strassler Center. Progress on her dissertation included an important shift in focus. Still interested in the Trawniki men (Soviet collaborators in the Nazi genocide), she has narrowed her research to their training in comparison with the “original” SS guard training regime at Dachau and the training of female guard auxiliaries at Ravensbrück. She will consider how SS guard instruction evolved and adapted to the increasing violence of Nazi policies and genocidal ambitions. Partee plans to confront gender and “racial” barriers in considering perpetrators and their collaborators, incorporating feminist, military, psychological, and legal studies into her approach. Materials from the State Department Office of Special Investigations, including trial transcripts and court reports, have been a major aid to her research.

Partee presented her preliminary research at international conferences that proved professionally rewarding. At the Second Biennial War Crimes Conference, *Justice? Whose Justice? Punishment, Mediation or Reconciliation?* organized by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London, Partee presented “How Late is too Late? The Trawniki Men on Trial.” “Evil or Ordinary Women? Female Auxiliaries of the Holocaust,” presented at the *Third Global Conference: Evil, Women, and the Feminine* in Warsaw, resulted in an invitation for her to contribute her paper to an electronic publication. During the summer, she traveled to Melbourne, Australia to participate in *The Aftermath: The Politics of Memory Conference*. (The 2nd Dr. Jan Randa Conference in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.) Moving to yet another continent, she participated in the 9th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Genocide Scholars in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Much as Partee enjoyed such glamorous international travel, she found serving as a teaching assistant for Professors Dwork and Akçam especially rewarding and appreciated the opportunity to lecture on “Inmate Camp Life in Concentration Camps” in Dwork’s course *Holocaust: Agency and Action*. The undergraduate students appreciated her, too!

RAZ SEGAL

Honored to serve as the Simon and Eve Colin Fellow, Raz Segal spent his fourth year of doctoral study completing research for his dissertation *Embittered Legacies: Genocide in Subcarpathian Rus’*. Based in Budapest, Segal worked extensively in the Hungarian National Archives, the National Library, the Jewish Archives, and the archive of the Institute of Political History. He conducted research in the State Archives of the Transcarpathian Province, located in Berehovo, Ukraine. He uncovered reports and correspondence that show how Hungarian anti-Jewish policies figured as part of colonial designs aimed to turn Subcarpathian Rus’ into a region with a Magyar (ethnic Hungarian) majority.



Advanced Claims Conference Fellow Jeffrey Koerber, Claims Conference Fellow Michael Geheran, Professor Debórah Dwork, and Colin Fellow Raz Segal at the Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust Conference.

Turning from paper to video, Segal accessed the Shoah Foundation Archive testimonies of people from Subcarpathian Rus' and other parts of Hungary. Their testimonies describe deportations to East Galicia and Ukraine, service in labor battalions, meetings with refugees from German-occupied Poland and Slovakia, flight to Romania, deportations to German death and concentration camps, and horrific death marches all over central Europe. They tell, too, about return, flight, immigration, and settlement after the war. Among the testimonies, Segal also found accounts of Gypsies who had lived in the region; they illuminate the multiple goals of Hungarian governments and suggest the larger context of the persecution and destruction of Subcarpathian Rus' Jewry.

It was a fruitful year for Segal on many fronts. His first book (published in Hebrew), *Days of Ruin: The Jews of Munkács during the Holocaust* was published by Yad Vashem Publications (2011). This major milestone was followed by the publication of an article, "Becoming Bystanders: Carpatho-Ruthenians, Jews, and the Politics of Narcissism in Subcarpathian Rus'" in *The Holocaust and Local History*, a special issue of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* (2011). Segal also presented papers at several conferences, including the Sixth Annual Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, organized at the University of Ottawa; the Lessons and Legacies conference in Boca Raton, FL; and the Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference on Holocaust Studies at Haifa University. He lectured at the Research Seminar of the International Institute of Holocaust Research in Yad Vashem. And, invited to Berlin and Potsdam to participate in a meeting of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, a private multinational initiative that seeks to deepen understanding of Ukrainian-Jewish relations, Segal was a discussant in a session on Subcarpathian Rus'. In this and other projects, Segal strives to bring Holocaust and genocide scholarship into the public sphere.

JOANNA SLIWA

With a high pass on her comprehensive exams and the successful defense of her dissertation proposal, Claims Conference Fellow Joanna Sliwa turns to full-time research on her dissertation, *Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Kraków*. She examines the experiences of children through multiple lenses: German policy concerning Jewish child life, Jewish communal responses, gentile reactions (including aid and rescue efforts), familial actions, and the responses of the children themselves. At the Center for Jewish History and Jewish Joint Distribution Committee archives, both located in New York City, she explored documents related to pre-war Jewish childhood in Kraków and Jewish organizations dedicated to child life. Having conducted preliminary research in the U.S, Poland, and Israel, Sliwa is well-prepared to mine key archives in Kraków and Warsaw during her residency in Poland as a Fulbright Fellow beginning this fall. Returning to the U.S., she will spend four months as the David and Fela Shapell Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Sliwa's project has been selected for support by a range of organizations, in addition to Fulbright and the USHMM. She earned scholarships from the American Institute of Polish Culture in Florida (the Harriet Irsay Scholarship) and the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. Recipient of a travel scholarship awarded by the German Historical Institute (GHI), she went to Warsaw in the late fall for a two-day conference, *Jewish Work in Nazi Ghettos*, organized by the GHI and the Jewish Historical Institute. She extended her stay to conduct dissertation research at the Archive of New Records and the Jewish Historical Institute.

Invited to speak about her research, Sliwa and Professor Debórah Dwork led a joint session, "Oral History in Genocide Studies: Introducing the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive," at the fall conference, *The Psychology of Genocide and Its Aftermath*, held at Clark University (see page 8). Another opportunity to discuss her use of the Shoah Archive emerged with a visit from Douglas Ballman, the Manager of External Relations at the Shoah Foundation. The Center community and Clark faculty were impressed with her discussion on how to incorporate testimonies into research and teaching. A gifted speaker, Sliwa continued to use her talents leading tours at the Museum of Jewish Heritage (New York City), where she is an active participant in the Lipper Internship Program and other educational activities.

—Mary Jane Rein

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

The doctoral student population grows by two students in fall 2011. Both will follow the Holocaust studies track, yet their particular interests will expand the range of scholarship pursued at the Center, as they focus on Jewish refugees in Iran, and Romanian Jewish refugees in the United States and elsewhere in the Americas. Their research in these areas will contribute to our understanding of the global impact of Nazism and its relevance in present-day world politics. A third student will enrich our community as a visiting student scholar, contributing to the Center's intellectual life. Her interest in the education of Jewish children during the Holocaust complements the work of our students and faculty.

KATHRIN HAURAND

Kathrin Haurand comes to the Center from Germany, and enters the Ph.D. program as a Claims Conference Fellow. She holds an MA in Cultural Studies and History from the European University in Frankfurt, Germany. Most recently, she pursued research at the Fortunoff Video Archive (Yale) on female Nazi perpetrators and undertook a project on antisemitism at the Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism. Her interest in Nazism emerged out of an activist impulse. Motivated to confront all forms of racism, she researched discriminatory police violence and monitored racist attitudes among government officials in Germany. This work was done on behalf of the United Nations committee that oversees implementation of the UN Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Working with Holocaust survivors and refugees from Iran on issues of democracy and human rights, Haurand came to recognize the importance of investigating the past. She plans to focus her doctoral research on the experiences of German and Soviet Jewish refugees who fled to Iran during the Holocaust. To that end, she has begun to study Farsi and Arabic. Her interests in this region extend to the present day and encompass a wish to understand the escalating use of genocidal antisemitic rhetoric.

MIHAI POLIEC

Mihai Poliec will also hold a Claims Conference Fellowship. And like his first-year colleague, he comes with an MA degree; his in Jewish Studies from the University of Bucharest in Romania. His thesis was on the history of Romanian Jewry. Most recently, following graduate coursework at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he was a Moses Mendelsohn Fellow at Paidea, the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Stockholm.



Professors from eight departments offer coursework.

Poliec seeks to understand American attitudes, both Jewish and gentile, toward the fate of Romanian Jews during the Holocaust. He will research the experience of Romanian Jews who came as refugees and survivors to the Americas, examining attempts at rescue and intervention. Poliec's research interests have been inspired, in part, by hearing fellow Romanian Elie Wiesel speak several years ago. Moved by Wiesel's wisdom, Poliec wondered what he had experienced in the post-war years. That thought triggered a series of questions about all Romanian Jews, the remnant of a once robust community, who had made their way to the Americas.

HANNA SCHMIDT HOLLÄNDER

Hamburg University doctoral student Hanna Schmidt Holländer joins the Center community as a visiting student scholar. She looks forward to participating fully in the intellectual and scholarly life of the doctoral program as she works on her dissertation, "Education in the Jewish Ghettos in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe," under the direction of Professor Frank Golczewski, Hamburg University. Ghettos are often understood as a prequel to concentration and death camps, and thus in the Nazi logic defined as "death space." By contrast, Holländer argues that ghettos were places in which self-governed societies functioned, perhaps even flourished, for several years. Given the many urgent needs presented by ghetto life, she examines the rationale for the emphasis on schooling young people in the face of genocide. Scrutinizing what was actually taught, she observes a shift toward vocational instruction that might contribute to survival. Importantly, she also notices that Hebrew language instruction expanded as the idea of a Jewish nation with its own state took hold. Ghetto education, in Holländer's view, was a form of resistance, an expression of humanity, and a means of possible survival. —*Mary Jane Rein*

Undergraduate activities in Holocaust and Genocide Studies deepen student knowledge about current and historic genocides, and mechanisms for prevention. The academic year began with a call to action from Naama Haviv '00, MA (ABD) '06, Assistant Director of Jewish World Watch. In an *Especially for Students* lecture about her fact-finding mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo, she challenged students to get involved (see page 4). Learning that minerals mined in Congo for use in cell phones, cameras, computers, and other electronic devices fund weapons purchases that fuel devastating violence, the students responded by launching a Conflict-Free Campus Campaign. They lobbied the University to develop a purchasing policy that favors companies working toward a certification process to ensure that the minerals they buy do not originate from militia-controlled mines in Congo. Thanks to student energy, Clark is at the forefront on this issue having passed a Conflict-Free Minerals purchasing policy.

Eager to do more, students from the Clark chapter of STAND, the student division of the Genocide Intervention Network, participated in planning *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo*. This international summit will bring student activists, scholars, and NGO representatives to Clark on 24–25 September. STAND leaders Rachel Gore '13 and Emma Craig '13 planned sessions that will connect student participants to NGO representatives. Clark STAND's involvement and advocacy have drawn the interest of chapters across the county and many plan to send representatives to attend the Clark summit.

STAND maintained a full activist agenda throughout the academic year. Initiatives included a phone and letter writing campaign to lobby Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to appoint a permanent diplomat to Sudan; a screening of *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo* to introduce the Clark community to issues of violence in Congo and the Conflict-Free Campaign; a screening of the documentary *Burma VJ* as a fundraiser for the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project, with which STAND plans to partner next year; and a celebration of the Southern Sudanese secession vote.

Three students were awarded undergraduate summer internships funded by endowments established by Ina Gordon and the Belfer family. Rachel Gore, Emma Craig, and HGS concentrator Morgan Sandler '13 were selected by HGS faculty from a competitive applicant pool. Gore served as a policy intern at Jewish World Watch. She assisted in assembling its annual Genocide Risk Assessment, a tool developed by Professor Barbara Harff who spent two semesters in 2000 and 2005 as Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Strassler Center. The Risk Assessment Model considers seven factors that can be used to determine the likelihood for imminent conflict.

Sandler interned with PROOF: Media for Social Justice, as a result of her coursework with Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Scholar Leora Kahn (see page 24). PROOF uses photography to inform and educate global audiences about human rights. Sandler traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia to assist with the exhibition *The Rescuers* and helped with planning other initiatives. Craig spent her internship at Primeros Pasos, a non-government organization based in Quetzaltenango, a city in the highlands of Guatemala that is home to a large population of Mayan people. Primeros Pasos works to empower the people of Quetzaltenango and the surrounding communities by providing free health care and health education to children and their families through its walk-in clinic and community education programs.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

These extracurricular activities complement the robust coursework that forms the backbone of the Center's undergraduate program. Some 400 students enrolled in 22 courses taught by 12 faculty members in 2010–2011. A highlight of the course *United Nations and International Politics*, offered each fall by Political Science Professor Srinii Sitaraman, is a Genocide Crisis Forum organized as a full-scale Model UN Simulation. This year's event, *The Role of the United Nations in Justice, Peace, Reconciliation, and Reconstruction in Post-Genocidal Societies*, included participants and observers from neighboring high schools and colleges in Worcester (Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute). Senior Alexandra Carter '11 gave the keynote address; she reflected on her experience observing Rwandan genocide tribunals in Tanzania.

Clark undergraduates involved with Holocaust and Genocide Studies embody the university motto, "Challenge Convention, Change the World." The activities reported here demonstrate their seriousness of purpose and engagement. —Mary Jane Rein



Undergraduate students attend an *Especially for Students* lecture in the Rose Library.

LIFE AFTER THE CENTER

Keen to apply their knowledge of the Holocaust and other genocides, Strassler Center doctoral students have chosen a range of professionally meaningful full-time positions in the public realm. Some do so while completing their dissertations. Their appetite for work amazes: they write theses on demanding topics, publish original scholarship, and do super work on their jobs. Newly minted Ph.D. recipient Dr. Sarah Cushman is a case in point. While serving as Director of Youth Education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County for the past four years, she continued to write her doctoral thesis on *The Women of Birkenau*. The completion of her dissertation, and her important work educating the public, bring to fruition the promise represented by the generous support she enjoyed as Steven Spielberg Fellow from 2001-2006. Having held a Charles H. Revson Fellowship at the USHMM, and thus known to museum staff, she was invited to contribute an article to the museum's publication of the Höcker album. The photographs in this notorious album depict the life of German perpetrators at Auschwitz, including distressingly cheerful photos of officers at rest and play with women known as *helferinnen*. Cushman's research on female perpetrators encompasses the *helferinnen*, women who served in support roles at Auschwitz, working as typists and stenographers.

Ever eager to forge new opportunities for doctoral students, Center Director Debórah Dwork worked with Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Studies and Director of the Rodgers Center at Chapman University, to develop a post-doctoral program that begins this fall. The Chapman initiative furnishes an ideal opportunity for a talented doctoral or post-doctoral candidate from the Strassler Center to teach at Chapman while engaged with scholarly projects. Saul Kagan Advanced Claims Conference Fellow Jeffrey Koerber has been selected to inaugurate the program. He will serve as Research Associate and Holocaust History Fellow at Chapman's Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In this capacity, he will teach a Holocaust studies course each semester, present a public lecture, mentor and advise undergraduates, and enjoy hands-on involvement with Rodgers Center activities while bringing his dissertation project, *Born in the Borderlands: The Response of Jewish Youth to Oppression and Genocide, 1933-1948*, to closure.

Koerber will appreciate the company of another Strassler Center Ph.D., Dr. Beth Cohen. She returns to Chapman University in the fall as Weinstein Gold Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust History. And both Koerber and Cohen value the presence of Nobel Prize laureate author Elie Wiesel, who has accepted an appointment as a Distinguished Presidential Fellow. Mr. Wiesel will undoubtedly enjoy the opportunity to serve Chapman with these outstanding junior colleagues. —*Mary Jane Rein*



Sarah Cushman, Ph.D. '10 and Professor Debórah Dwork.

Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03, Weinstein Gold Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust History at Chapman University

Sarah Cushman Ph.D. '10, Director of Youth Education, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Tiberius Galis (ABD), Executive Director, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Naama Haviv MA '06 (ABD), Assistant Director, Jewish World Watch

Jeffrey Koerber (ABD), Claims Conference Academic Fellow for Advanced Shoah Studies

Beth Lilach (ABD), Senior Director of Education and Community Affairs, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Ilana F. Offenberger Ph.D. '10, National/International Program Coordinator, Facing History and Ourselves

Christine Schmidt Ph.D. '03, Communications Officer, Public Interest Law Institute

Lotta Stone Ph.D. '10, Museum and Collections Associate, Middleton Place National Historic Trust

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Center's tree, located beside the Rose Library, and its graduate student offices are dedicated to the memory of Holocaust survivor Henry Tobak. A plaque relates a Talmudic tale that explains the significance of these gifts. A young girl asks an old man planting a carob tree how long it will take to bear fruit. Seventy years, he explains. Will he live to enjoy its fruit? she asks. No, he responds, but just as he has enjoyed trees planted by those before him, he hopes to do the same for those to come. And so it is with our tree. Education, research, and greater human understanding, the fruits of our program, will accrue to the benefit of future generations.



GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Gifts from charitable friends have been essential to the growth and development of Strassler Center programs. The opening of Cohen Lasry House, the Center's home, furnished opportunities for a variety of named spaces. More than a decade later, wall plaques remind all who visit of the generosity of supporters. Students who work and study in the Tobak offices, the Kent Seminar Room, and the Rose Library, know that specific people cared enough about Holocaust history and genocide studies to invest in their education, and the education of those who will follow. Visitors to the Freedman Courtyard, Jakubowitz-Chaifetz Garden, Siff Exhibition Space, and Strassler Reception Room (gifted by Phyllis and Stephen '55 Steinbrecher) know that generous families endowed these spaces for the enrichment of others.

Plans are now underway for an addition to the Rose Library, where shelves are filled and hundreds upon hundreds of books—thanks to a decade of book giving by Diana Bartley—await space. Clark's long-serving Director of Physical Plant, Paul Bottis, made the very first gift toward funding the addition. Bottis is intimately familiar with the Rose Library, having worked closely with architect Julian Bonder on the construction of the original building. And he enthusiastically embraced the concept for the library addition, shrewdly conceived by Bonder to take advantage of ample space below street level. His lead-off gift signals unqualified support for the project and, coming from one as knowledgeable about the Clark campus as Bottis, it is most especially valued.

With the support of Strassler Center friends and donors, we look forward to inaugurating a new named space to house our burgeoning collection of books and study carrels for Center doctoral students. Our program grows apace, and so must the space we occupy. Gifts made throughout the year underlie all aspects of that program and fuel new areas of inquiry. Sara Chitjian is a prime example: her unsolicited support for Taner Akçam's *Dersim Oral History Project* is a boon to his continued work documenting this little known episode of genocidal violence. We thank the many donors listed in these pages whose generosity supported the activities of the academic year 2010–2011 and which are detailed throughout this report. —*Mary Jane Rein*

IN MEMORIAM

SIDNEY ROSE

The Strassler Center lost a visionary friend and patron on 12 December 2010 with the death of Sidney Rose. Thanks to Sidney's foresight, Clark's program in Holocaust History and Genocide Studies was the first of its type. The innovative professorship he endowed with his brother Ralph, and with their wives Rosalie and Shirley, laid the ground for the Strassler Center as the first and still only doctoral program of its kind.

The Rose Professorship, held since 1996 by the Center's founding Director Debórah Dwork, was endowed in memory of the Rose family murdered in Poland during the Holocaust. Sidney's father Philip came to Worcester from Lida, Poland, as a poor teenage immigrant, early in the last century. Returning to Lida to see his dying mother, Philip hoped to bring some of his large family back to the United States with him. Sadly, they remained behind. A family portrait taken in Lida and displayed both in the Center's Rose Library and Dwork's office reminds students of individual Jews whose fate underlies their work.

The Roses initially planned to endow a chair in Jewish studies but then-President Dick Traina proposed a novel concept: a professorship in Holocaust history. With their agreement, the Roses changed the academic landscape forever and defined Holocaust education for years to come. Sidney was a vital presence as the program took root. He attended many of Dwork's classes and was an excellent student. Recognizing that teaching lives on through generations of graduate students, he and Rosalie endowed a scholarship to ensure a permanent stream of fully funded students. And they took a personal interest in the Rose fellows, getting to know them and their research. A patron of art and education, Sidney also recognized the need for a

Philanthropist Sidney Rose.



library and supported the construction of an addition to Lasry House that won six architectural awards. And they funded numerous other initiatives that have helped to grow and develop the Center's mission and mandate.

Sidney Rose practiced philanthropy with intelligence, commitment, and love. His legacy endures in the work of our students, faculty, and all whom they touch with their scholarship.



Lois Green MPA '78 at a 2010 Rose Library luncheon celebrating the publication of her book, *The Last Chapter*.

NORM ASHER '48 AND LOIS GREEN MPA '78

Norm Asher and Lois Green were great friends of the Strassler Center. Their deaths, separated by a month in fall 2010, leave a void. Long-serving University trustees, both Norm and Lois recognized the importance of research and scholarship on the Holocaust and other genocides. More than a decade before the founding of the Strassler Center, Norm endowed a fund to support an annual lecture on the Holocaust to be held in the spring to commemorate the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Imagining lectures that, as the gift docket explains, consider “the Holocaust, its past, present, and future implications for mankind,” the Asher Fund accommodates the Center's growing vision. Reverend Haidostian's lecture on the Armenian Genocide served as the Asher lecture in 2011 (see page 14) and in 2012 the Asher Fund will support the Second International Doctoral Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Norm and Lois were friends for over half a century. In fact, Norm introduced Lois to her beloved husband, Bob, as readers of her book *The Last Chapter* know. Norm and Lois's service to Clark University left a lasting impact. The Strassler Center and Clark University were greatly enriched by their interest and commitment.

PRESIDENT RICHARD TRAINA

President Richard Traina's leadership contributed greatly to the founding of the Strassler Center and his death in March saddened all who knew him. “There is no question that the Center wouldn't have happened without the support and advocacy of Dick Traina,” declared David Strassler, who was Chairman of the Board of Trustees when the plan for a program in Holocaust Studies first emerged. “The Rose brothers approached Dick with the idea of a professorship in memory of their father shortly after I met Debórah Dwork on a trip to Auschwitz. And Dick seized upon the inspiration of Clark having the first fully endowed chair in Holocaust history and threw himself behind the idea of a Center that would grant Ph.D. degrees,” Strassler explained.

Traina channeled his personality and persuasive talents into the initiative, proving a powerful spokesman for the Center and its mission. He was instrumental in persuading the faculty and trustees of the value of the doctoral program and he sought the funds to support it. Dwork recalled, “Dick, David, and I were committed to securing the resources to actualize our ambition. We knocked on donors' doors and they let us in. There was no question that Dick, the President of Clark University, believed in my vision. Donors saw his commitment and responded generously.” Traina's interest in the growth and development of the Strassler Center continued after he left the University. “Every year, numbers of first class people—from new students to new faculty members, from visiting scholars to concerned dignitaries—become associated with the Center,” he observed in 2009. “The Strassler family, and others like the Rose family, must be very proud of the results of their commitments.” Add to this list a salute to Dick Traina for recognizing and nurturing this initiative, for his visionary leadership, his steadfast commitment, and his inspiring guidance.

—*Mary Jane Rein*



Clark President Richard Traina (second from left) at the Center's inauguration in 1998 with Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel (left), John Cardinal O'Connor (Archbishop of New York) and Center Director Debórah Dwork.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The following list includes outright gifts, pledges, and pledge payments made between June 1, 2010 and May 31, 2011.

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In memory of Sidney Rose '41

Mary Jane Rein and Seth Kates

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In memory of Sidney Rose '41

Mary and Saul Rothkopf

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Ruth and Allen Rubin

Edward Simsarian

"Please join me in supporting a response to genocide that is grounded in education and historical understanding, and looks forward to intervention and prevention." — David Strassler

Donate by phone: 508.793.8897

Or online: clarku.edu/departments/holocaust

* of blessed memory

** Diana Bartley passed away on 31 July 2011, too late to be recognized among those honored in memoriam.



Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor Taner Akçam (left), William Hausrath '53 (center), and Ruth Thomasian (right), Project SAVE.

A CALL TO ACTION

I am privileged to hold the sole professorship in North America committed to study of the Armenian Genocide and the Strassler Center offers the only Ph.D. program in Holocaust history and genocide studies. I train doctoral students who research the Armenian Genocide, the history of Turkish nationalism which limited the rights of minority populations and resulted in mass violence against civilians, and the long tradition of denial that continues to this day. At present, I have two students, both funded through the generosity of William Hausrath '53.

Over the last decade, the Armenian Genocide has emerged as a historic turning point, a pivotal event to which scholars refer and make comparisons. Yet future scholarship is imperiled by an alarming paucity of young researchers. Senior scholars who laid the groundwork for the subject as an area of serious inquiry are aging and there is no one to fill their places. Professor Richard Hovannisian, dean of the field, is near retirement. The bitter truth is that, at present, I am the only North American scholar engaged in active research on the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide is one of the most important items on Turkey's political agenda today. Yet the country remains in the grip of nationalist historiography which depends upon continued denial. This is why it is essential to train students who can help foster awareness of the Armenian Genocide in the Turkish and global consciousness. We need funds to support students of all nationalities—and applicants to date have come from America, Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Syria, and Turkey—who seek to study the Armenian Genocide. Each young scholar represents an opportunity to change the discourse in the part of the world from which the student comes and to which he or she will return.

Growing this program by securing such fellowships is of urgent import. Please make a gift to support graduate education. With your help we can deepen our understanding of the past which is essential to facing history and moving forward.

—*Taner Akçam, Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor*



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- \$1,500
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Make your check payable to Clark University. Gifts are tax deductible by law.



CENTER IN THE MAIL

Today's mail brought me the super year-end report from the Strassler Center. Congratulations on all that you and your colleagues, plus your fine students, continue to accomplish. Very well done indeed!

—John K. Roth, Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Founding Director, The Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, Claremont McKenna College

Let me tell you how happy I was for the visit, the Center's hearty hospitality, meeting with Debórah and the other colleagues, your students, your kind self, and all. This also gave me a good idea about what goes on in your work, the dedicated people behind it, and the general atmosphere.

I am sure that with some more discussion we will be able to put together a framework for the Haigazian-Clark relationship, including a course you could teach, a joint conference, and other venues of research, etc.

—Paul Haidostian, President, Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon to Professor Taner Akçam

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the coverage of the Armenian Genocide workshop in the Center's Year End Report and the exceedingly generous acknowledgments of NAASR's role in this undertaking.

The workshop was an extraordinary event. It is obvious that you are doing great work and there is a very special feeling of collegiality both within the Strassler Center and towards outside entities such as NAASR. I am well aware that such an atmosphere does not create itself but is encouraged and nurtured by you. I have confidence that there will be future collaborative efforts that will be every bit as fruitful.

—Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) to Professor Taner Akçam

All who attended the workshop kept thanking us for having you as the keynote speaker. From the moment you started, you welcomed the teachers into learning with you and they absorbed every word! So many new ideas to bring to the classroom!

Thanks so much for joining us and for suggesting the topic. It was very fortunate that one of our dedicated survivor speakers, Fred Spiegel joined us. You were telling his story and he loved that!

—Dale Daniels, Executive Director, Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center, Brookdale Community College to Professor Debórah Dwork

Thank you for the invitation to present our recent research at the Center. It is always a pleasure to come to Clark and to see the Center developing and thriving. We both had an excellent impression of the graduate students, and we are convinced that their work will sharpen the Center's profile on the scholarly map as the most interesting place in America to study the history of the Holocaust.

—Dr. Beate Meyer, Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg and Dr. Frank Bajohr, University of Hamburg to Professor Debórah Dwork

It was a pleasure to have you deliver the scholarly keynote for our annual CHE conference [New Jersey Council of Holocaust Educators]. Your outstanding ability to challenge, engage and stimulate teachers as learners was evident in every theme, fact, and concept you presented. As I participated and observed my colleagues, I knew that we would understand the plight of refugees, women, and children during the Holocaust more fully. More importantly, your talk stimulated our continued discovery of this history – a luxury in our busy lives as teachers. Thank you for taking the time to renew us. There are few scholars who could accomplish this task as effectively.

—Colleen Tambuscio, New Milford High School history teacher to Professor Debórah Dwork

The program submitted as best of the year was the one you presented, "We were called Greenies..." The group was very interested in your topic, especially how the community and organizations helped survivors who came to Canada. When you opened the program up for discussion, there was much participation as members related their family stories.

Everyone commented on how well you presented the information and ran the program.

—Na'amat Canada, Toronto to Adara Goldberg (ABD)

There is a difference between a good professor and a great educator – Professor Tenenbaum is a great educator. Throughout my time at Clark she fostered opportunities to take what I learned in her classes and apply it to real world settings and present-day problems. She is the type of educator who takes a personal interest in her students and takes on their individual growth as her personal mission. I owe Professor Tenenbaum many thanks for my accomplishments at Clark University!

—Alexandra Carter '11

SAVE THESE DATES

Please join us for these programs. For further information call 508-793-8897 or visit the online calendar of events listed on the Center's website under News and Events, www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust.

1 SEPTEMBER 2011 - 22 JANUARY 2012

Cohen-Lasry House

Power, Prosperity and Hope in Eastern Congo

A photographic essay by Michael Ramsdell.

14 SEPTEMBER 2011

3 pm, Little Theatre

Checked Floors, performed by Cheryl Hamilton '01.

A one-woman show about a recent college graduate who returns to Maine in 2001, just as 2,000 Somali immigrants unexpectedly move into the community. Hailed as "brave, funny, and honest," this show is not to be missed. An *Especially for Students* lecture co-sponsored with the Higgins School of Humanities, the Political Science Department, and the Theater Arts Program.

24 SEPTEMBER 2011

9 am–12 pm, Tilton Hall

International Summit on Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo.

Sponsored by Albert M. Tapper

Keynote Address, Chouchou Namegabe, South Kivu Women's Media Association, Congo Conflict and Sexual Violence.

Panel Session, Aaron Hall (Enough Project), Naama Haviv (Jewish World Watch), Maurice Carney (Friends of Congo), *Defining a Policy Agenda in a Complex Crisis.*

Public Lecture, Saleem Ali, University of Vermont, *Causes and Consequences of Environmental Conflicts.*

18 OCTOBER 2011

3–6 pm, Rose Library

Book Discussion: Thomas Kühne, Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community 1918-1945 (Yale University Press 2010).

Professors Volker R. Berghahn (Columbia University) Alex Alvarez (Northern Arizona University), and Wendy Lower (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich) will discuss Professor Kühne's book and ideas about building community through shared participation in mass violence.

27 OCTOBER 2011

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

Conference: Beyond The Armenian Genocide: The Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review

Keynote Address, John Torpey, Professor, CUNY Graduate School, *A Comparative Perspective on Reparations for Historical Injustices.* Supported by the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair, the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, University of Minnesota, and NAASR (National Association for Armenian Studies and Research).

15 DECEMBER 2011

7:00 pm, Worcester JCC, 633 Salisbury Street

Book Discussion: Debórah Dwork, A Boy in Terezín: The Private Diary of Pavel Weiner, April 1944–April 1945 Co-sponsored with the Worcester JCC Cultural Arts and Worcester Community Hebrew High.

22 FEBRUARY 2012

3:00 pm, Rose Library

David Feinberg, Professor, University of Minnesota, Voice to Vision

The *Voice to Vision* project helps Holocaust survivors and Genocide survivors share their experiences through art. An *Especially for Students* lecture co-sponsored with the Higgins School of Humanities and the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

29 MARCH 2012

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

Conference: Second International Doctoral Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Supported by the Louis and Ann Kulin Endowed Fund, the Asher Fund, and co-sponsored by the Danish Institute for International Studies

Keynote Address, Omer Bartov, John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History, Brown University. Sponsored by the Buster Foundation in honor of Libby '72 and Richard '71 Cohen.

Reflecting upon the contributions of so many to the Center this year, I recall Simone de Beauvoir's observation—and want to change all the pronouns. "That's what I consider true generosity," she said. "You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing." Correcting her text, I say: *They gave their* all, and yet made *me* feel as if it cost them nothing. That's what I consider true generosity! Thanks to the energy, enthusiasm, and skills of Center staff, we moved forward on every front this year. It is a pleasure to thank librarian Robyn Christiansen, who has brought new order to our collection and our systems, and Dr Mary Jane Rein, Executive Director of the Center, whose keen intelligence shapes our initiatives. I am delighted to welcome our new Academic Program Liaison Officer, Dr Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, who comes to us fresh from a Harvard-Manchester post-doc on children's rights. Her appointment reflects the Center's growth to a new level, and we are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of her broad vision and analytic perspective. And it is with the greatest regret—although with happiness for them—that I mark the departure of our talented bookkeeper, Ghi Vaughn, and our administrative assistant, Margaret Hillard, whose amazing efficiency increased as our numbers grew, after many happy years of wonderful service.

True generosity characterizes my colleagues at Clark: Taner Akçam; Anita Fabós; Thomas Kühne; Olga Litvak; Ken MacLean; Srini Sitaraman; Valerie Sperling; Shelly Tenenbaum; Jaan Valsiner; Johanna Vollhardt. They are the Center's Intelligence Agency, and I am grateful to them. Their ideas, plans, research agendas, and classes are the very stuff of the Center; its heartbeat and blood flow. I thank, too, Professor Nancy Budwig who, as Dean of Research, oversees the Strassler Center. I depend upon her wisdom and good sense, and am never disappointed. And I am grateful to my colleagues at other institutions and organizations, who so generously share their brains and lend their expertise to our graduate students. "Gratitude is one of the least articulate of emotions, especially when it runs deep," Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter once noted with some dissatisfaction. I share his chagrin. The gift of each colleague is very real and utterly crucial to our enterprise. My words are a poor acknowledgment of the riches all offer.

This Year End Report was designed by Anne Jordan and Mitch Goldstein of Hypothesis, Ltd, whose design and printing work on this project in 2009 won them a prestigious award. Production of the Year End Report, however, is the credit of Center staff. Led by Mary Jane Rein—who serves as Editor-in-Chief, Production Editor, Photography Editor, and Copy Editor—each member of staff helped to transform this project into a final product. My thanks to all! —*Debórah Dwork*

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DESIGN

Anne Jordan and Mitch Goldstein, Hypothesis, Ltd

PRINTER

Barrington Printing



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests, controlled sources and
recycled wood or fiber
www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-003376
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