



STRASSLER
CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
STUDIES

AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

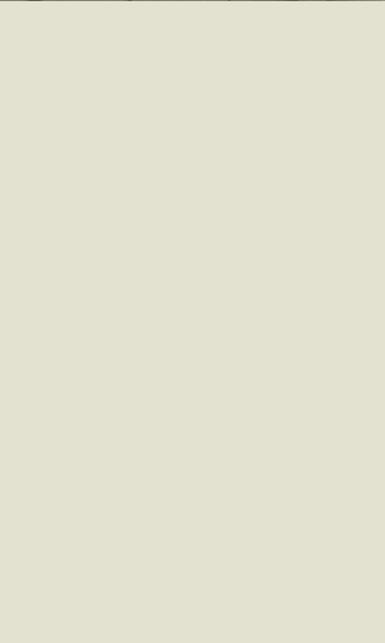
2008 – 2009
YEAR END REPORT





"Whoever fails to increase knowledge, decreases knowledge."

— The Ethics of the Fathers



Dear Friends,

“We are here today because we know this work is not yet finished,” President Obama declared on his visit to the Buchenwald concentration camp in June. “To this day there are those who insist that the Holocaust never happened—a denial of fact and truth that is baseless and ignorant and hateful.” Buchenwald, he said, served “as a reminder of our duty to confront those who would tell lies about our history.”

We here at the Strassler Center—students, faculty, staff—embrace that mission. We know our work is not yet finished. There is much more to learn and many deniers to combat. We take seriously our duty to establish fact and truth and to confront lies. Cutting-edge research, education about the violent past, and outreach initiatives to bring knowledge into the public domain—with regard to the Holocaust and to other genocides: the Armenian genocide and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur—stand at the very heart of the Strassler Center.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The first ever International Graduate Students’ Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, envisioned by the Center’s graduate students and hosted by our entire community here at Cohen-Lasry House, shines as a milestone towards actualizing that agenda. It shines, too, as a landmark event in the academic field we have pioneered. A mere ten years after we inaugurated doctoral training specifically in Holocaust history and genocide studies, the program has matured to boast an intellectually gifted and socially committed cadre of student-activists. Seeking to forge links with their peers around the world, the Strassler Center students imagined a conference that focused on a wide range of related topics. Their call for papers was rewarded with over 130 proposals, and the panels they organized reflected multiple veins of fruitful research: *inter alia*, “Law and the Concept of Genocide;” “Holocaust and Genocide Education;” “Children and Youth during the Holocaust;” “Genocide against Native Americans;” “Jewish Life in Nazi Ghettos;” “Gender and Genocide.” Listening to all 55 students as they presented their papers, argued with each other, and responded to intense questioning by their peers and eminent guest scholars, I understood an exhortation in the *Pirkei Avot (Wisdom of the Sages)* anew. “The dignity of your student should be as precious to you as your own.”

The students, for their part, hold fast to another lesson from the *Pirkei Avot*: “Do not say, ‘It is impossible to understand this,’ for ultimately it will be understood.” They take seriously survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel’s despair that “the world hasn’t learned.” Standing with President Obama at Buchenwald, Wiesel observed: “Had the world learned, there would have been no Cambodia and no Rwanda and no Darfur and no Bosnia.” As the next generation of expert advisers, activists, educators, and scholars, the students embrace responsibility for “learning”: applying knowledge to effect intervention and, better, prevention.

The need is great. We look to you for support as we move forward together.



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





EVENTS & LINKAGES

Cohen-Lasry House opened a decade ago 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.

DAN MICHMAN: THE ROLE OF JEWISH COUNCILS IN HOLOCAUST MACHINERY

ROSE LIBRARY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2008

The Rose Library includes several titles authored by Yad Vashem senior historian Dan Michman and by his father, an equally eminent historian. It was thus a welcome venue for him to lecture about “Jewish ‘Headships’ (*Judenräte* and *Judenvereinigungen*): The Emergence and Application of an Ideology-driven Administrative Concept in Nazi Anti-Jewish Policies.” Clark students, faculty and residents of the Worcester area gathered in this intimate setting to learn about his dynamic research which he characterized as having “to do with my personal development in Holocaust studies.”

Born in Amsterdam, Michman moved to Israel in 1957 as a child when his father, Joseph Michman (Melkman), became chairman of Yad Vashem. Like his father, Michman has enjoyed a long association with Yad Vashem and for several years served as a member of the board of the International Institute for Holocaust Research. Michman is also a professor of modern Jewish history at Bar-Ilan University and, since 1983, has directed its Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research. He began his talk by explaining that teaching challenges him to ask questions about the Holocaust he would not otherwise consider. Pedagogy prompted him to think about the issue of “Jewish councils” (*Judenräte*) and led him to view conventional approaches to the topic as problematic.

“Michman’s analysis of the *Judenräte* elucidates the importance of fine-grained research. His search for answers further cements my own commitment to the preservation of knowledge of the Holocaust.”

— Mikal Brotnov '10

In Michman’s view, Jewish councils were a central element in the Holocaust machinery. These councils were composed of Jews selected by German authorities to administer the ghettos. Some historians regard council members as complicit in the genocide of the Jews; others consider them victims. Michman interprets the council through the lens of leadership: Were council members leaders? If so, should they be held accountable for deportations or other atrocities within the ghettos?

To answer this question, Michman guided the audience through a history of the term *Judenräte* and explained how Jews during the Holocaust were assigned to the councils. As Germans wanted control, they chose “leaders” or notable Jewish community members, to be the cogs in the Nazi machine. However, Michman pointed out, once chosen they were no longer “leaders” in the established sense of the term. According to Michman, it is methodologically incorrect to refer to Jewish council members as leaders because from the moment of their selection, they could no longer behave as true communal leaders. Because of this, he believes it important to establish a distinction between leadership and headship.

Discriminating between the categories of leader and headship forces scholars to undertake a more critical and intense look at the role of Jewish councils and their precarious existence within ghettos. Calling them leaders makes them at least partly complicit in the deportations. Referring to council members as heads describes their position without the moral connotation suggested by the term “leader.”

Michman’s insights challenge scholars to think critically about the terms used to label actors and victims during the Holocaust. And, as words express concepts, Michman’s scrutiny of the language historians have used in relation to the actual role and function of the *Judenräte* opened a fresh perspective on a troubling problem. — Alexis Herr



Professor and Mrs. Dan Michman (far right) with Center graduate students, Professor Thomas Kühne, and conductor Murry Sidlin in center

TILTON HALL, 10 SEPTEMBER 2008

Robert Satloff, author of *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach into Arab Lands*, captivated students, faculty, and community members with his account of the Jewish experience in French North Africa and the Arabs who, at great personal risk, helped them.

As a fledgling historian of the Holocaust in Arab lands, I was pleased to introduce the speaker and to describe the influence of his work on me. Satloff's engaging and illustrated narrative brought this history to life. The pain and torment endured by Jews in Arab lands during the Holocaust is, in Satloff's words, "a lost story." The existence of concentration camps, forced labor battalions, and anti-Jewish laws may have been known, but how the story unfolded in the countries of Arab North Africa has largely been lost.



Center Director Debórah Dwork with Dr. Robert Satloff and David Strassler

ROBERT SATLOFF: IN SEARCH OF AN ARAB SCHINDLER

Inspired by the events of 9/11 to uncover this history, Satloff resolved to find an "Arab Schindler." At present, not a single Arab is counted as "Righteous among Nations," an honor Yad Vashem bestows with care upon individuals who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Satloff hoped that if he could find one Arab who helped one Jew, the Holocaust would become not just a Jewish story, but an Arab story as well, offering a new lens through which these groups could view each other.

Satloff's research identified several righteous Arabs. He shared stories describing individual acts that saved Jewish lives, such as issuing false birth certificates to Jews so that they could avoid deportation, sheltering Jews during Allied bombing, and refusing to benefit from Vichy policies of antisemitism. The story of Anny Boukris and her family stood out boldly in Satloff's narrative. Anny's mother, a beautiful Jewish woman, had been targeted for rape by a German officer. When he bragged about his plans to a group of soldiers, a local Tunisian Arab, Khaled Abdelwahhab, overheard him. Khaled went to the family as soon as he could and warned them. That night they fled to Khaled's family farm, where ultimately nearly a dozen Jews found refuge for the duration of the war. If Khaled was not a Righteous Arab, Satloff wondered, who was?

Satloff explained how his work at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and his identity as an American Jew helped to inspire his work on this project. Relocated for over two years to Rabat, Morocco, he collected documents and testimonies in nearly a dozen countries in his effort to bring these stories to light. In presenting the activities of Righteous Arabs, he emphasized that knowledge of their actions can help shape our present and propel us into a brighter, more peaceful future. —Emily Dabney

"My friend and I like to think that we're old, wise, and know a lot, but this showed us that we still have things to learn." — Gerald Teran '47

DONALD BLOXHAM: INTEGRATING THE HOLOCAUST INTO A EUROPEAN HISTORY OF VIOLENCE



Professor Donald Bloxham (back row, third from right) with the Center's doctoral students

ROSE LIBRARY, 22 OCTOBER 2009

In his thought-provoking lecture, “Integrating the Holocaust into a European History of Violence,” Donald Bloxham reviewed the 20th century European experience to demonstrate the influence of geopolitics on violence. His analysis of European ethnic conflicts elucidated patterns underlying the developmental process of Nazi policy on persecution of minorities.

Bloxham, a professor of modern history at the University of Edinburgh, described the ethnic violence that erupted in Anatolia after the Ottoman Empire’s defeat in the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913. The ensuing postwar population exchanges between the Balkan nations and the Empire relocated Muslims into predominantly Armenian areas. The goal of Ottoman officials was to break up high concentrations of Christian minorities. At the same time, Bloxham said, Armenian leaders pushed for reforms concerning their minority status. These efforts, along with the European powers’ attempted intervention on behalf of the Christian population, later served as pretexts for the Armenian Genocide.

Similarly, the expanding Nazi empire stirred the ethnic dynamic by breaking states into ethnic units, Bloxham continued. Specifically, Nazi alliance policy reduced the size of Romania in 1940–41 and population exchanges with Bulgaria followed. With the invasion of the Soviet Union, Romania and Germany became newly allied, beginning a process of “Aryanization” that involved colonization projects. In both instances of territorial change—one a diminution of realm, the other a growth—violence against identified minority groups resulted.

The pattern holds for the Nazi invasion and occupation of Poland. Poles and Jews were relocated to accommodate ethnic German settlers in newly acquired lands, subjecting the displaced populations to growing violence. The Nazi persecution of Jews proceeded on a territorial path, starting with the initial forced emigration of Jews from Germany. As they invaded new countries, German policy toward the Jewish inhabitants became increasingly brutal and murderous.

Bloxham illustrated how the development of Nazi persecution of minorities depended upon and evolved with territorial gains and losses.

Stanford Klapper, visiting from Puerto Rico, came to the Strassler Center specifically to attend the lecture. Bloxham “went beyond the Jewish situation” to explain Nazi policy and, Klapper noted, provided “a lot of insight into the scope and reasons behind it.” Klapper and many other audience members, impressed by Bloxham’s command of the topic and approachable demeanor, stayed after the talk to ask questions and speak with him personally. —*Elizabeth Anthony*

TILTON HALL, 23 OCTOBER 2008

Olga Litvak, Leffell Professor of Modern Jewish History, helped her audience understand beauty in an entirely new way through her inaugural lecture, “Death and the Maydl: Jewish Femininity and the Denial of Beauty in the Art of Marc Chagall.”

An expert in East European and modern Jewish history, Litvak is equally skilled in interpreting visual and literary culture. She previously taught at Columbia University, the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, Princeton University, and most recently at SUNY Albany, where she served as director of the Center for Jewish Studies.

OLGA LITVAK: DEATH AND THE MAYDL — JEWISH FEMININITY AND THE DENIAL OF BEAUTY IN THE ART OF MARC CHAGALL

Depictions of the artist’s first wife, Bella, populate Chagall’s early oeuvre. Litvak explained that his many images of Bella represent a construction of the artist’s Jewish identity. Bella appears to “inhabit Chagall’s imaginary *shtetl* world,” and her image in his paintings furnishes “a visual vocabulary” of romanticized Jewish life in his native Belorussian town, Vitebsk, the source of his artistic origins.

We have been taught to see Chagall as a sentimental and lyrical painter of love. Yet his many depictions of his wife deny her beauty and in Litvak’s reading make her look “like a corpse.” The 1909 painting “Bella” was Chagall’s first representation of his future wife. It is a caricature of a bourgeois Jewish woman. Bella’s social background stood in stark contrast with Chagall’s position as a poor and unknown art student, and his exaggerated image of her body loomed as a dominant feature in his early work. He suggests through his visually impersonal images of Bella that beauty is false, artificial and inferior.

Later Bella paintings suggest Chagall’s ambivalent feelings about her, his hometown, and his identity. She is depicted as an androgynous, monumental, and distant being but also as a goddess, provocateur, a mysterious, seductive, and submissive female. These contradictions signify Chagall’s profound ambiguity toward their relationship as well as toward Vitebsk. For Chagall, Vitebsk was both poisonous and addictive, and Bella became the embodiment of the town. The little-known 1933 painting “Nude over Vitebsk” offers a disturbing image of the artist’s wife. The erotic rear-facing image of the reclining Bella, whose female body seems to represent death to the world, demands the viewer’s attention. Bella appears to lie on a winding sheet and, with her face turned away from the viewer, “she is literally dead to the world.” Litvak concluded by saying that for Chagall to escape from Vitebsk meant to live forever.

Litvak’s innovative approach to interpreting the art of Chagall challenged the audience. In response to one audience member that she could never view Chagall in the same way again, Litvak replied, “then my lecture was a success.”

—Joanna Shliva

“Art is a matter of opinion. What Professor Litvak sees in a painting against what I see or the person next to me sees is different. I found the lecture very interesting. It was a Chagall that wasn’t familiar to me.” — Rita Roth, Worcester community member



Top: Professor Olga Litvak

Bottom: Dr. Emily Rose (left) at post-lecture reception sponsored by her in honor of her friend, Olga Litvak

UNITED NATIONS GENOCIDE CRISIS FORUM

JONAS CLARK HALL, 25 OCTOBER 2008

How might Clark undergraduates apply theoretical knowledge and simulate practical applications in the field of international relations and genocide? The answer was discovered through the UN Genocide Crisis Forum, an event that electrified the students and faculty who participated in the crisis simulation—an applied exercise focusing on the situation in Darfur.

The event was organized by Srinivasan Sitaraman, assistant professor of government, in cooperation with the Strassler Center, and was one of the requirements for his course “The United Nations and International Politics.” Shelly Tenenbaum, professor of sociology and coordinator of undergraduate activities for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, collaborated with Sitaraman on the exercise.

The simulation required each student to represent a UN member nation, particularly the key actors in Sudan, such as members of the African Union, UN Security Council, Arab League, and European Union. Before the event, students wrote policy papers illustrating the position favored by their country. The simulation required the participants to debate options concerning the Darfur conflict and ultimately to arrive at a collective resolution addressing the ethnic conflict and the growing humanitarian crisis there.

Tenenbaum opened the forum with an inspiring message emphasizing the importance of the Clark undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the significance of hosting such student debates. Tenenbaum urged students to transform theory into practice in order to influence the course of genocide in Darfur. She then introduced the event’s keynote speaker, Taner Akçam, the Kaloosdian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, highlighting his signal contribution to the study of Armenian genocide.

“From the simulation, I immediately understood how frustrating yet rewarding diplomacy can be. This event really made me think about what it takes to solve conflicts peacefully and I know now that it is extremely difficult.” —Beverlie Sopiép '10

Akçam spoke eloquently about genocide prevention and human rights protection. Drawing examples from the Armenian and Darfur genocides, he addressed obstacles to genocide prevention and adduced strategies that might lead to success. In the end, Akçam stressed the international community’s legal and moral responsibility for genocide.

The third speaker presented a different but highly valuable perspective on mass violence. Daniel Hall '09, a Clark student and a survivor of Sudan’s civil war, testified to a rapt audience about his experience during the Sudanese civil war as well as the challenges of being a refugee. Daniel, who was 9 years old at the beginning of his journey to peace and freedom, emphasized human strength and resilience in the face of enormous personal and collective tragedies. Now a U.S. citizen, Hall looks to the future with hope. His life history served as a compelling model for his fellow Clark students.

The main business of the forum, however, focused on the crisis simulation. Acting as representatives for their chosen countries, the students debated the sovereignty of Sudan, the legal responsibility of Sudanese leadership, the effectiveness of the International Criminal Court’s indictments, and possible solutions to the humanitarian crisis. Making extraordinary efforts to agree on a common text, the students managed to simulate the UN atmosphere through debate, negotiation, and draft resolutions. —*Stefan Ionescu*



The simulation required each student to represent a UN member nation

JOSHUA RUBENSTEIN: THE HOLOCAUST ON GERMAN-OCCUPIED SOVIET TERRITORY AND THE RESPONSE BY SOVIET JEWISH INTELLECTUALS

ROSE LIBRARY, 12 NOVEMBER 2008

Joshua Rubenstein—human rights activist, scholar, and journalist—delivered a fascinating talk titled “The Holocaust on German-Occupied Soviet Territory and the Response by Soviet Jewish Intellectuals.” His lecture drew upon survivor testimonies from occupied Soviet territories (Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Crimea) collected in his recently published work, *The Unknown Black Book*. Renowned Soviet Jewish journalists Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasilii Grossman originally compiled these accounts which were recorded immediately after liberation by soldiers or journalists, often Jews themselves, who spoke the victims’ mother tongue, Yiddish.

A Fellow of Harvard’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International, Rubenstein opened by emphasizing the differences between the Holocaust in western Europe, and in occupied Soviet territories. In western and central Europe, Jews were transported to death camps like Auschwitz while Soviet Jews were shot and buried close to the places they had lived. At Babi Yar, one of the best known mass killing sites, Germans and their Ukrainian accomplices killed 33,771 Jews in two days of continuous shooting in September 1941. Thousands more mass burials remain undocumented across Ukraine. Through extensive field work and interviews, French Catholic priest Patrick Desbois has located some 1,200 sites since 2004. Much work remains to be done throughout other former Soviet countries where the Holocaust has not been adequately researched.

“Rubenstein’s presentation was challenging and educational. His opinion concerning the post-war trials and search for justice was especially interesting to me. I am inspired to learn more about this topic.”

— Kristina Davoyan, MA student, Professional Communications



Joshua Rubenstein

Soviet Jews responded to atrocities through resistance and participation in the Red Army. On the eve of World War II, the Jewish population of the Soviet Union exceeded 5 million. Around 30,000 Jews fought as partisans and approximately 450,000 Jews served in the army, roughly 40 percent of whom were either killed at the front or in German captivity. About 150 Jews received the title *Hero of the Soviet Union*; another 160,722 were decorated.

Rubenstein argued that the Soviet response to the slaughter of its Jewish citizens was defined by propaganda needs. The Soviets emphasized the suffering Jews endured in an appeal to Jews in Great Britain and the United States. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAC), created on 24 August 1941, aimed to generate support in the west for the wartime alliance with the Soviet Union. The JAC collected information about Nazi atrocities against Jews and distributed news articles and essays, primarily for dissemination in the west. Soviet officials also informed domestic audiences about massacres of Jews, publishing in newspapers such as *Pravda* and *Izvestia*.

In closing, Rubenstein discussed judicial proceedings against Nazi perpetrators. He underlined that the Soviet regime had already organized trials by 1943. The trials at Nuremberg, in Rubenstein’s view, leave a legacy of uneven justice. Judges and prosecutors of all four major Allied powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France—participated in the Nuremberg trials. And although the mass murder of Jews was not the driving force behind the prosecution, this was the first time the crime of genocide was included in a criminal indictment.

—Natalya Lazar

RIFAT BALI: THE MYTH OF TOLERANCE – TURKISH POLICY TOWARD JEWS BEFORE AND DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

ROSE LIBRARY, 18 NOVEMBER 2008

A chance conversation led to a stimulating visit by Rifat Bali, an Istanbul-based scholar of Turkish-Jewish history. Following a trip to Istanbul to research refugee Jews, Rose Professor Debórah Dwork questioned Taner Akçam, the Center's Kaloosdian Mugar Professor, about their reception by the Turkish Republic. "My friend Rifat Bali is the expert on that!" Akçam responded. Students, faculty, and distinguished guests gathered for Bali's candid analysis, "The Myth of Tolerance: Turkish Policy toward Jews Before and During the Second World War."

Bali drove straight to the heart of the subject, identifying a long-held myth about the harmonious position of the Jewish minority under Ottoman rule. This narrative of peaceful coexistence, repeated by both Turkish officials and Jewish community leaders, stands in sharp contrast to what we know about the fate of other religious minorities. But it is a narrative born of *realpolitik*, embraced by Ankara, American Jewish leaders, and the State of Israel. According to this rosy point of view, Jews enjoyed protection and religious freedom under Ottoman and then Turkish rule; German Jewish intellectuals were welcomed at Turkish universities in the 1930s; the Turkish Republic allowed safe passage for Jews seeking refuge in Palestine; and Turkish diplomats saved their Jewish countrymen living in Nazi-occupied countries.

Like many myths, this one carries some truth. Turkey welcomed some German-Jewish scientists and intellectuals who would prove useful to the state. But other threatened Jewish scholars and professionals were turned away, even when recommended by someone as eminent as Albert Einstein. And while Turkey allowed Jewish officials in Istanbul to assist European Jews fleeing to Palestine, they only permitted passage through Turkey to those carrying entry visas. The fate of the 760 refugees without visas on the Romanian ship *Struma* is a case in point. After holding the *Struma* for two months in winter 1942, the Turks towed the disabled ship into the Black Sea where it was torpedoed by the Soviets—killing all but one on board. Finally, while the Turkish Consul General on Rhodes protected the Jewish population on the island, many Turkish Jews perished throughout Europe.



Top: Dr. Rifat Bali, front row center
Bottom: Bali and distinguished visitors

Indifference to the fate of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust begs the question of how Turkey treated its Jewish citizens. In Ottoman times, Jews were not full citizens. Under the Republic, they were granted citizenship but in practice a policy of Turkification threatened their well-being. Public expressions of antipathy toward the Jewish community included questioning Jewish loyalty to the State and targeting accumulation of wealth. These attitudes culminated in the 1940s with a draft of non-Muslim men into labor battalions and the discriminatory use of a wealth tax. This often onerous tax not only targeted Jews but even Muslims whose ancestors had been followers of the 17th century false messiah Sabbatai Zvi and whom the state suspected of being crypto Jews.

Bali showed that by exaggerating its tolerance for Jews, Turkey deflects world attention from the Armenian Genocide. And in return for Jewish and Israeli lobbying against genocide resolutions, Turkey pursues a policy of friendship with Israel. Thus, historical facts are subverted in favor of political interest. —*Mary Jane Rein*

J. CHRISTIAN KENNEDY: TOWARD SOFT POWER DIPLOMACY TO RESOLVE HOLOCAUST ISSUES

STRASSLER CENTER AND LURIE CONFERENCE ROOM, 3 FEBRUARY 2009

J. Christian Kennedy, the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues at the U.S. Department of State, weathered a major New England snowstorm to visit the Strassler Center and deliver a public talk.

A luncheon meeting with the Center's doctoral students afforded an opportunity to discuss the range of their research. The students demonstrated their rapport and intellectual camaraderie as each took turns describing their scholarly projects. Natalya Lazar spoke of interethnic relations in Ukraine during the Holocaust. Her animated description spilled over to her colleague, Stefan Ionescu, a Romanian student examining ethno-nationalism in Romania during the Holocaust years. The thread continued with Raz Segal, an Israeli student investigating the Jewish communities of subcarpathian Rus. International in scope and highly scholarly, this lively back-and-forth helped illustrate what makes the Strassler Center program unique. Kennedy declared himself impressed.

Kennedy later spoke to a wider audience about the vital issues his office faces. He began by describing why he sees the Holocaust as a unique genocide: namely, that the German nation intent on mass annihilation unleashed its full fury on a group of people across all borders. More than 60 years after the war, the State Department continues to advocate for systematic approaches for compensation rights, property restitution, and Holocaust education.

Such work is challenge, Kennedy said, and he emphasized the use of soft power diplomacy. The United States, in his view, should pursue a diplomatic course that helps nations come to a consensus around Holocaust matters.

On the subject of Holocaust education, he held that the goal of individual nations must be to educate their citizens, end national legends that obfuscate, and achieve an accurate historical narrative.

In conclusion, Kennedy spoke of the importance of archives to Holocaust research. As the survivor generation nears the end of its lifespan, archives will be the cornerstone of Holocaust research, a fact not lost on the doctoral students and faculty attending.

—Sam Reznik '09, *Campus Representative, US Department of State*



Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy

TANER AKÇAM: FACING HISTORY — A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY? THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURKISH AND AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPTS AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

TILTON HALL, 19 MARCH 2009

With passion and urgency, Taner Akçam, the Strassler Center's new Kaloosdian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, outlined his vision for reconciliation in his inaugural lecture, "Facing History: Denial and the Turkish National Security Concepts."

In her introduction, Center Director Debórah Dwork praised Akçam's courageous scholarship and activism. She admired his commitment to confront Turkish history as part of the effort to achieve reconciliation. Akçam's involvement is also personal, she explained: As a graduate student in Turkey, he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years for publishing a dissident student journal. Escaping from prison, he found political asylum in Germany and devoted himself to the study of his country's troublesome past.

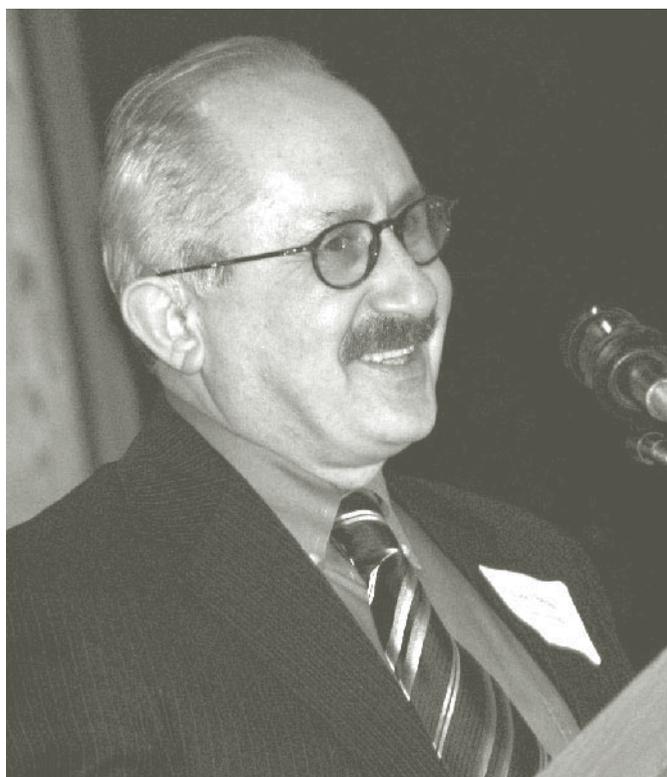
Akçam posed two central questions: Why does the Turkish government refuse to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and why is recognition of these atrocities perceived as a threat to Turkish sovereignty? The roots of denial lie in the aftermath of World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. Faced with loss of territory to the Armenians and Greeks, the new Turkish leadership hoped that prosecution of the perpetrators would safeguard their territorial integrity. Yet, as Turkey's first post-war leader, Mustafa Kemal, denounced the genocide as "a shameful act," the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres annexed Anatolia to non-Turkish minorities. Kemal's conciliatory approach having failed, nationalist hardliners ended Turkey's strategy of atonement. Three years later, the Treaty of Lausanne reestablished Turkish dominance in Anatolia. These events underlie the foundation of the modern Turkish state and continue to inform its national security fears. Acknowledging crimes, so the argument goes, allows encroachment upon Turkish territory.

Turkey's "national security" argument should be taken seriously, yet attitudes must change. "As long as Turkey continues to regard moral principles and its security as two opposing poles that are mutually exclusive, and refuses to come to terms with the past for national security reasons," Akçam argues, "further problems will be created." Denial of historical injustices in the name of national security destabilizes relationships and delays democratization in a volatile region. According to Akçam, "One cannot solve any problem in the Middle East today without addressing historic wrongs because history is not something in the past; the past *is* the present in the Middle East."

Mutual distrust between groups heightens tensions in the Middle East, a situation exacerbated by recent historical events. Consequently, Turkey's uncompromising policy toward the Armenian Genocide fuels regional hostility. The solution, Akçam suggests, is for the U.S. to stop "being a part of the problem and to take on the role of mediator." An honest confrontation with history must be integrated with the United States' national interests in the Middle East.

Akçam concluded optimistically, predicting that "we will enter a new era where morality and *realpolitik* will not be considered mutually exclusive." His message resonated with the audience as evidenced by their standing ovation and excited discussions that followed. —*Michael Geheran*

Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam





Professor Andrea Smith, University of California-Riverside

ROSE LIBRARY, 22 APRIL 2009

The Center hosted Cherokee intellectual, feminist, and anti-violence activist Andrea Smith for a lively discussion about “Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide.” An assistant professor of media and cultural studies at the University of California-Riverside, Smith was nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her research regarding violence against women of color in the United States.

Smith, a co-founder of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, spoke with passion about her activism and scholarship. Mixing theory with a call for active change, she places Native American women at the center of an analysis that focuses on sexual violence, and challenges standard definitions of the term and conventional responses to the problem. Her efforts expand the concept of violence to include environmental racism, population control, and the widespread appropriation of “Indian” cultural practices by whites and other non-natives.

Her work deftly connects examples of historical and contemporary colonialism to high rates of violence against Native American women—the most likely women in the United States to die of poverty-related illness, be victims of rape, or suffer partner abuse.

Smith began her talk by examining longstanding perceptions of Native Americans as “dirty,” a distinction used to separate them from whites. If viewed as unclean, according to her analysis, they do not matter. For Native women, the cultural judgment of them as unhygienic justifies their rape. “This is not only sexual violence, but sexual violence as logic,” she said. Viewed as polluted, all too many women are subjected to sterilization. By eliminating the menstrual cycle, Native American women can be made clean.

ANDREA SMITH: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND AMERICAN INDIAN GENOCIDE

A provocative activist, Smith issued a clarion call for societal change that defies traditional government structures. Mixing humor, tragedy, and passion, she acknowledged the challenges inherent in changing the white, male-dominated, patriarchal social order. She exposed the strings attached to funding anti-violence campaigns and bureaucratic organizations that function within a system she deems oppressive. In her view, “there is no clean money.” Nevertheless, she said, models exist for challenging society and accepted social discourse, citing one Brazilian community that functions outside the dominant order.

The main strategy for combating violence depends upon building an independent movement based on local initiative, Smith said. Positive programs addressing state violence and violence against women occur at the community level and by means of “revolution through trial and error.” To encourage participation, “the movement must be a loving, supportive, and enjoyable environment to work in,” she said. Building such a movement depends upon fostering collective responsibility and above all should be “fun!”

Smith carried her message and enthusiasm to a broader community of scholars with her participation in the Graduate Students’ Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies held at the Center in April 2009 (pages 16–17). It was the Center’s good fortune to host Smith and the great luck of its students to learn more about how scholars can challenge convention and change the world.

—Jody Russell Manning

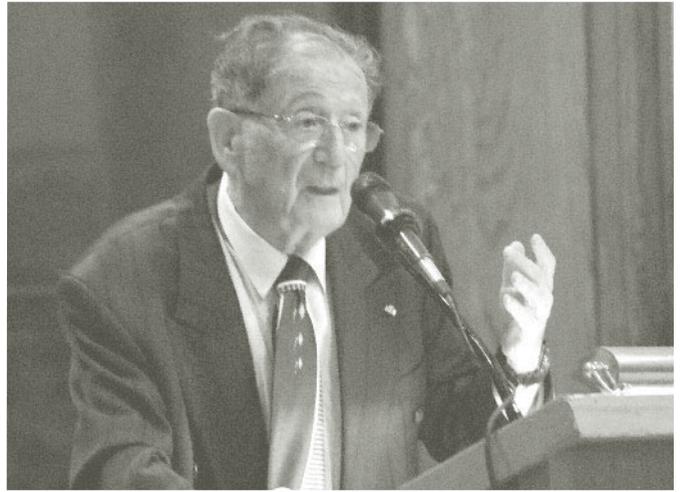
YEHUDA BAUER: HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE — TWO CONCEPTS OR PART OF EACH OTHER?

TILTON HALL, 23 APRIL 2009

Several hundred people heard Professor Yehuda Bauer's keynote address, "Holocaust and Genocide—Two Concepts or Part of Each Other?," which opened the First International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. An eminent scholar and an activist against mass violence, Professor Bauer's résumé includes serving as founding chair of the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University (1982 to 1995) and director of the International Center for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem (1996 to 2000). He received the Israel Prize (1998) and has been a member of the Israeli Academy of Science since 2001. Active in the formation of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, Bauer served as academic advisor to the Stockholm Forum conferences, the first of which adopted the Stockholm Declaration, a milestone in the struggle against racism, antisemitism, other forms of ethnic hatreds, and ignorance. Throughout his distinguished career, Professor Bauer has taught at the Hebrew University and internationally as a visiting professor—including twice at the Strassler Center.

Professor Bauer framed the Holocaust in a global perspective: German history, European history, European antisemitism, world history, refugee politics, Jewish history, World War II, and genocide. Focusing on the latter two categories, he described the salient features genocides share. First, genocide always aims at the annihilation of human groups—real or imagined. Second, perpetrators favor the best means at their disposal to execute their plans. And finally, there are no hierarchies of suffering; the torment of victims holds across all genocides.

Significant factors render the Holocaust unprecedented but by no means unique. The idea for the annihilation of Jews around the world developed among an ideologically-driven, racist, and antisemitic group of Nazis at the Reich Security Main Office. Their obsession with Jews had no pragmatic basis and eventually overrode practical considerations. Ideology led to the Holocaust rather than a struggle for territory or political power, pretexts for genocide elsewhere in the world. Ideology also prompted World War II. Hitler declared war ostensibly to gain *lebensraum* in order to



Professor Yehuda Bauer, Hebrew University and Yad Vashem

conquer lands the Reich did not need. Bauer thus concluded that "the Holocaust was an ideologically-motivated genocide taking place within an ideologically-motivated war." Thirty-five million people died in large part because of an ideology inspired by Jew-hatred.

According to Bauer, genocide prevention "is possible, but extremely difficult." We may never be able to eradicate mass murder but we might diminish it. To that end, he urged Holocaust and genocide scholars and activists to operate in the world of power politics and economic interests—a world in which sermonizing remains futile. He advocated for a "morally-motivated cynicism"—while people may feel "angry at evil" and "furious at murder," their task is to think critically about society and engage in the political work of genocide prevention.

When asked about misuse of the Holocaust in rhetoric about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Professor Bauer distinguished between genocide, where one side holds almost complete power over an essentially powerless group, and conflict, in which each side holds some power. Deescalating genocide into conflict, as could occur in Darfur if the rebels gain sufficient arms and organization, could halt genocide. The Israeli attack on Gaza was not a genocide but part of a bitter conflict between two nationalities fighting over territory. In response to a question about Nazi ideology, Bauer cautioned against describing the Holocaust as unique. The Holocaust was unprecedented; an extreme form of genocide; a paradigmatic event. And because the Holocaust was perpetrated by human beings, against human beings, and for human reasons, like every human event, it could happen again; not in the exact same way, but in similar ways—and then we call it genocide. Professor Bauer argued that anyone studying the Holocaust must also study other genocides, but anyone who deals with other genocides cannot "run away from the Holocaust. And this is my answer to the title of my lecture." —Raz Segal

"Unbelievable. What an amazing lecture!"

— Jessica Antoline, Tufts University

LINKAGES

Relationships with like-minded scholars, research centers, and organizations around the world provide opportunities for important academic and professional partnerships for Center students, faculty, and alumni. Just one example: Dr. Radu Ioanid, director of International Archival Programs at the USHMM, participating on the doctoral committee of Claims Conference fellow Stefan Ionescu, arrived for Ionescu's dissertation proposal defense generously prepared to help other doctoral candidates as well. His visit proved key to Emily Dabney, for whom Ioanid opened the door to the museum's newly acquired documents on the Holocaust in French North Africa. Dabney will follow a well-travelled path forged by previous students such as Ilana Offenberger who also received special, early access to USHMM archival materials. Ties to significant collections held by institutions such as the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute (SFI) facilitate student and faculty research. Indeed, thanks to funding from patron David Strassler, the Center will soon become a remote access point for viewing SFI testimonies.

Linkages help to convey Center expertise to diverse audiences, as faculty and students provide intellectual capital to organizations such as the American Jewish Committee, Facing History and Ourselves, the Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation, The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, the Jewish Women's Archive, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Institutional collaborations foster robust academic exchange such as we enjoy with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Thanks to the Louis and Ann Kulin Endowed Fund, DIIS offered a European toehold as planning for the International Graduate Students' Conference unfolded and the participation of their faculty was assured. Active exchange continues as we look forward to a semester-long visit from DIIS senior researcher Cecilie Stokholm Banke in fall 2009.

Professional opportunities for doctoral students materialize from institutional friends such as the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Jewish World Watch, and the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

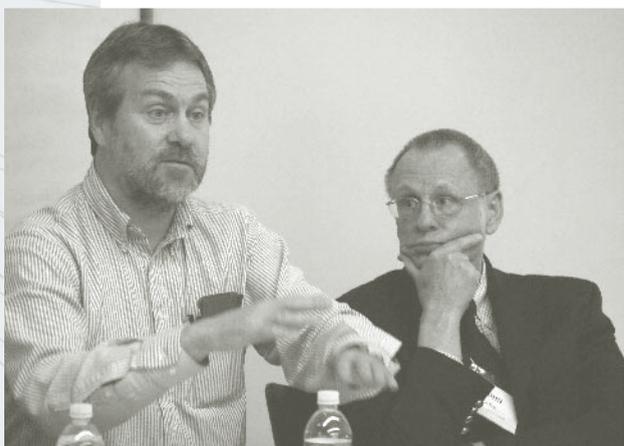
For these and many other reasons, we look forward to fostering new partnerships as we continue to nurture and value our present linkages with:

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
 ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
 ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
 AUSCHWITZ INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
 DANISH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
 FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES
 THE FRIENDS OF HRANT DINK FOUNDATION
 GENOCIDE INTERVENTION NETWORK
 THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS
 JEWISH WOMEN'S ARCHIVE
 JEWISH WORLD WATCH
 THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE – A LIVING
 MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST
 THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
 UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
 YAD VASHEM
 YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

STUDENT CENTER, 23 TO 26 APRIL 2009

Praise for the first-ever International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies flowed in from every quarter—and was most welcome to the student organizers. Envisioned and mounted by the Center's doctoral students, the conference provided a forum for their colleagues around the globe to present original research papers to an audience of peers and scholars. The call for papers in summer 2008 yielded more than 130 submissions from 22 countries on 5 continents. The tremendous response confirmed that the students had tapped into a strong desire among emerging scholars to establish a community with shared intellectual interests.

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS' CONFERENCE ON HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES



Under the expert guidance of their academic supervisor, Professor Thomas Kühne, a student committee selected 55 papers which they shaped into 18 panels. Simultaneous sessions ran in adjoining rooms of the Clark University Student Center from 23 to 26 April. Clark faculty, visiting scholars from our partner program at the Danish Institute for International Studies, and invited scholars moderated the panels. The distinguished visitors, with expertise in comparative genocide, and Holocaust history and memory, included Professors Yehuda Bauer, Hebrew University; Ben Kiernan, Yale University; John Roth, Claremont McKenna College; Andrea Smith, University of California-Riverside; and Eric Weitz, University of Minnesota. (A complete list of panels, paper titles and moderators can be found on the conference website, www.chgsconference.org). Inspired by the excellence of the papers and the incisive responses by the moderators, lively discussion followed the presentations. Participants forged valuable connections with senior scholars and student colleagues who, in many cases, suggested productive avenues for improving or refocusing research topics.



Avril Alba and Fromson Fellow Jody Russell Manning (right)



Top: Professors Ben Kiernan, Yale University (left) and John Roth, Claremont McKenna College
Bottom: Professor Debórah Dwork and Rosalie Rose, leading Center benefactor

The conference papers suggest new directions in Holocaust and comparative genocide research. Presenters considered interethnic relations, the plight of refugees, perpetrators and victims, the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, gender and genocide, legal frameworks as they pertain to genocide, post-genocide identity, collective memory, education, film and other mass media. The composition of the panels reflected the response to the call for papers. The Holocaust was best represented, with other genocides a significant presence as well, including genocides perpetrated against Native Americans and Armenians, in the Balkans, and Rwanda. The excellence of the papers prompted the editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Holocaust Studies* to plan a special issue to communicate important results to a broader audience.

A roundtable discussion closed the conference. Asked to assess the results of the panels within the broader context of future research and scholarship, the invited scholars offered words of advice to the gathered students. Professor Bauer cautioned students against moving too far from the victims in Holocaust and genocide research. Professor Dwork suggested ways that researchers can integrate theory into historical narratives. Broadening the discussion to consider comparative genocide, Professor Kiernan advised the student scholars to explore not only top-down history, but bottom-up theories as well. Professor Roth focused on a question rather than a suggestion: “Why do you do what you do?” Emphasizing gender as an analytical tool, Professor Smith advocated viewing genocide not as a discrete act, but as a continuing process that demands activist attention. Professor Weitz urged students to analyze genocide as a strategy of population management spurred by ideology, but shaped by pragmatism. During the ensuing discussion, first-year Clark doctoral student Cristina Andriani returned Roth’s question to the roundtable participants, asking why *they* do what *they* do. Responses varied, although consensus emerged that they study the Holocaust and genocide because they find it singularly meaningful.

The conference marked the centennial anniversary of Sigmund Freud’s visit to Clark University. Freud, who fled Nazi persecution, delivered five lectures at Clark (the sole American university where he lectured) as part of a series that recognized the University’s 20th anniversary of graduate education. The Graduate Students’ Conference honored Freud’s visit as well as an important milestone for the Strassler Center: its 10th anniversary of doctoral education. The conference celebrated graduate studies, just as Freud’s visit did in 1909.

—Mary Jane Rein



Conference supporters Hanne and Dr. Howard Kulin (left) seated next to Martha Mutisi and Claims Conference Fellow Raz Segal

“I want to express my deep gratitude for inviting me to participate in the conference. It has been for me a great experience. Meeting so many great scholars, and making new friends and contacts was wonderful. To say nothing about the organizational aspects — all was so perfectly planned! I am already looking forward to the next opportunities...”

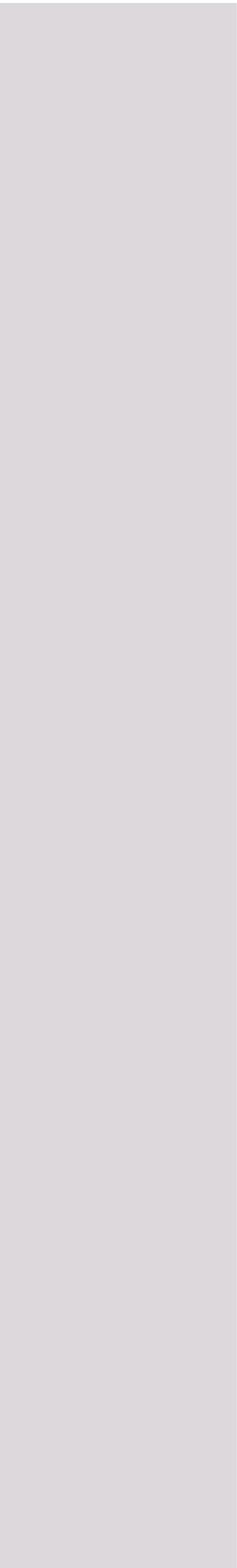
— Alex Kerner, Tel Aviv University

“Thanks again for a tremendous conference last weekend. I really thought it was very impressive, and very heartening in terms of the future of Holocaust studies as a discipline or at least subject area.”

— Dr. Tom Lawson, lecturer in modern history, University of Winchester, and editor, *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*

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 NOTES

DEBÓRAH DWORK

“I fear I suffer from repetitive surprise syndrome,” Center Director Debórah Dwork announced happily. “When I reflect upon the Center’s activities and accomplishments at the close of each year, I am astonished anew by the extraordinary vitality and creativity of our community.” In her view, the word “maturity” captures the Center best for 2008–09. “Evidence that we have grown to actualize our vision abounds,” she observed. She ticked off concrete markers. Taner Akçam joined the Center faculty in September as the Kaloosdian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies, and by winter break was in Paris to launch the French translation of his critically acclaimed *A Shameful Act*. A new book, “*Armenian Problem is Solved*”: *The Policies towards Armenians during the War Years According to Ottoman Documents*, written in his native Turkish, was published this year and the English edition is on the way. As energetic a teacher as a scholar, Akçam’s classes filled to capacity and applications to pursue graduate study with him streamed in. Thomas Kühne, the Strassler Professor of Holocaust History, and a champion of rigorous scholarship, completed his first book in English (Yale University Press, 2010) while continuing to write and publish in his native German. Perhaps, Dwork suggests, it is his bi-lingual productivity that prompts the many applications to the doctoral program from students in German-speaking and English-speaking countries who wish to work with him. Dedicated to fostering a robust graduate student culture, Kühne served as the faculty advisor to Center doctoral students as they mounted the first ever International Graduate Students’ (IGS) Conference in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (pages 16–17).

If Dwork, Akçam, and Kühne form the core Center faculty, others play crucial roles. As Dwork points out, the mission of the Center—the work it does and seeks to do—is carried upon many shoulders. Olga Litvak, the newly appointed Leffell Professor of Modern Jewish History, jumped in immediately upon arrival to mentor graduate students, offer directed readings courses, and sit on oral comprehensive examination panels. The students stand in awe of her scholarly reach and she supports them to match her ambition. Shelly Tenenbaum, who long directed the undergraduate program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, recast her position, giving her the opportunity to grow the range of courses offered by the concentration to all Clark students. Hundreds take advantage of them every semester.



Debórah Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History and director, Strassler Center, at the Institute for the History of German Jews in Hamburg, Germany

In her new dignity as coordinator of all HGS undergraduate programming, Tenenbaum developed entirely new initiatives including, for example, an oral history project to teach students to research instances of genocide and conduct interviews with survivors of genocide and ethnic violence who live in Worcester. Psychology professor Jaan Valsiner is as involved in the graduate program as Tenenbaum is in the undergraduate concentration. His commitment to the Center’s graduate students—offering courses for them; providing publication opportunities; encouraging them to apply psychological theories to their historical research—led to the new interdisciplinary stream in the psychology of genocide upon which the Center and Psychology Department have now embarked (page 37).

Dwork sees a similar maturation in the deployment of Center staff. “A mature scholarly institution requires a full complement of extremely competent, high-functioning professionals who respond productively to changing needs and new technologies. We’ve got that.” Margaret Hillard, administrative assistant; Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, program director; B.J. Perkins, librarian; Dr. Mary Jane Rein, executive director; and Ghi Vaughn, bookkeeper and Web site manager, have expanded their reach and scope as the program has developed. “Just one example,” Dwork interjected. “Each staff member worked with a student committee for the IGS Conference, teaching them how to deal with international travel forms and Homeland Security issues, to bargain with vendors, to keep in good communication with participants and produce directories and schedules. They served as mentors and the students learned valuable professional skills.”

As faculty and staff took the Center into new academic territory and in fresh scholarly directions, and 19 ambitious doctoral students from 8 countries engaged in cutting edge dissertation projects, Dwork enjoyed her multiple roles of

director, professor, and scholar. She published two books in the span of eight months: *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow* (University of Chicago Press) in September 2008 and *Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933–46* (W. W. Norton), coauthored with Robert Jan van Pelt, in April 2009. “If *The Terezín Album* is the most beautiful book I’ll ever do—and it is absolutely gorgeous—with *Flight* I set myself a new standard for narrative.” Realizing that the refugees’ escape around the world defied traditional plotlines, Dwork developed an innovative structure to carry the story she and van Pelt sought to tell. Unlike other histories that start and end at conventionally established dates, the history of refugee Jews has many starting points, even more end dates, and actors scattered across the globe. With the encouragement of her long-term editor Ed Barber before he retired and Amy Cherry thereafter, Dwork devised a way to capture pivotal moments and core issues. This allowed the coauthors to move from broad vision to narrow details, to spin a grand story and a tale of individual lives. As it happened, *Flight* spoke to a range of current problems: Dwork’s take on the new wave of economic refugees went up on *The Huffington Post* while her worry about Darfur and Congo found expression in an op-ed in *New York Newsday*. She was as surprised as she was pleased to see broad-band interest in her work, from *The Boston Globe* to *Commentary* to ABC’s “Eyewitness News,” and spanning the political range from the “Savage Nation” to “Stand Up! With Pete Dominick” radio talk shows. Perhaps it was that broad appeal that prompted the History Book Club, Military Book Club, and Book of the Month Club to select *Flight* for their members.

Her publications were but one reason Dwork was approached by the news media. Believing that scholars have knowledge to offer in the public arena, Dwork happily offers her expertise on current events. Her position on the deportation of death camp guard Ivan Demjanjuk (*Yes! His age is irrelevant; there is no statute of limitations on the crime of mass murder.*) hit 435 Associated Press news outlets and the BBC morning and evening news interviews. Other issues—President Obama’s visit to Buchenwald; the shocking murder of Stephen T. Johns, the Holocaust Museum guard gunned down by a racist Holocaust denier; the distinction between freedom of speech and invitations to speak; rescue efforts during the Holocaust; the Holocaust and popular culture—claimed her time and attention too. Some debates became the subject of documentaries on the small and large screens. Interviewed by Belgian television on the hoax memoir by Misha Defonseca, Dwork noted that the account of a young girl trekking across war-torn Europe was patently absurd but multiple agendas had led many to suspend disbelief. In the TV piece *Throwing the Truth to Wolves*, Dwork grounded the discussion in historical evidence. For Rick Trank’s feature documentary *Against the Tide*, she drew upon her expertise on refugee policies and practices, joining other leading scholars and intellectuals to assess American efforts to rescue European Jewry.

Dwork’s dynamism and renown make her a popular lecturer to the general public as well as the scholarly community. She was thrilled to serve as Scholar-in-Residence for the South African Holocaust Foundation in August. Her visit took her to Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg, and gave her the opportunity to speak before public audiences, to teach teachers, and to present a university seminar. “Engaging with the Holocaust in this post-apartheid society was profoundly moving. There is much to fall in love with in South Africa: the hospitality, natural beauty, animals. But I am a historian. And it is the way people grapple with the past that caught my heart.” More familiar to her, but no less significant, were her multiple engagements in New York, educating teachers in the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Institute held at Columbia University and programs hosted by the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She was pleased, too, to serve as the guest speaker for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the November Pogrom (the so-called *Kristallnacht*) hosted by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center as well as the Pittsburgh community’s Yom HaShoah commemoration. Nor did she neglect her hometown of New Haven, gladly participating in the annual “Taste of Honey” program, a teach-in at the Jewish Community Center.

Scholarly presentations took Dwork across the country, from chairing a moving opening panel by survivor-scholars, “Why Do We Do What We Do?” at the biannual *Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust* conference held at Northwestern University, to serving as a guest speaker at Kent State University in Ohio, and as a scholar-in-residence at Chapman University in California where her host, Professor Marilyn Harran, and she seek to develop a strong link between their two institutions. Not surprisingly, as Dwork’s work deals with Europe, she travelled there as well, speaking on “Denial in the Public and Private Domains” at a conference on Holocaust denial held by Remarque Institute, NYU, at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Finally, she discussed key issues in Jewish refugee history during the Nazi era at a symposium organized by Drs. Beate Meyer and Susanne Heim and hosted by the Institute for the History of German Jews in Hamburg. Meyer and Heim had chosen to hold the symposium in the library of the Warburg house, which Dwork found especially meaningful as she and van Pelt had written about the Warburgs and their library in *Flight*.

One might conclude from all of these activities that Dwork’s 15 graduate students, honors History undergraduate student, and the many undergraduates in her courses received short shrift. Nothing could be further off the mark. Her office door remained open and, when on the road, dissertation chapters and papers were her constant companions. Indeed, her rivers of blue ink are famous. As graduate student Raz Segal put it, “Deborah is one thousand percent supportive. Highly demanding. But one thousand percent supportive.” Dwork’s response when she heard: “Who knew?”

TANER AKÇAM

Before he even arrived on campus, reporters were calling to secure interviews with Taner Akçam, the Center's new Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies. News of his appointment quickly spread as the public learned of his courageous support for freedom of the press in his native Turkey, his dedication to human rights, and his commitment to confronting history. Interest did not abate, and Akçam continues to be in demand by the press and public as the "go-to scholar" for commenting on the Armenian genocide, particularly as it relates to Turkish politics and international relations. Akçam spoke about just this in his spring inaugural lecture, "Facing History: A Threat to National Security? The Relationship between Turkish and United States National Security Concepts and the Armenian Genocide," which he delivered to an appreciative full house (see page 12).

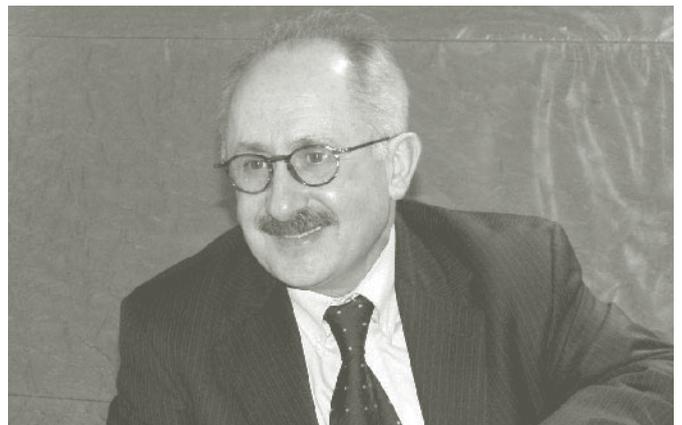
Internationally renowned, Akçam balances a busy calendar of public speaking with his demanding teaching schedule and his scholarly pursuits. During the winter he travelled throughout France to promote the French translation of his book, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*. His book, *"Armenian Problem is Solved": The Policies towards Armenians during the War Years According to Ottoman Documents*, was published in Turkish in 2008; the English translation is forthcoming. He co-wrote *The Protocols of the Istanbul Military Tribunals on the Investigation of the Armenian Genocide* with the eminent scholar of the Armenian genocide, Vahakn N. Dadrian. Published in Turkish in 2009, an English version will come out in 2010. His interviews, articles, and book reviews appeared in close to a dozen American, French, and Turkish newspapers.

Akçam travelled widely as an invited speaker and conference participant. He presented "Ottoman Documents and the Genocidal Intent of Union and Progress Party" at the Society for Armenian Studies' 35th Anniversary Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. At a conference organized by the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the University of Athens, he discussed the connection between Greek expulsion and the Armenian genocide. During a whirlwind visit to Thessalonica and Athens, he delivered two different papers on the topic of "Homogenization of Anatolia and the Greek Case." Locally, he attended the first Boston-area Armenian studies scholars gathering at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and participated in a panel discussion, "Beyond Soccer Diplomacy," at Brown University. He discussed the Armenian genocide, Armenian-Turkish relations after Obama, and the importance of genocide studies at venues throughout New England and in New York.

A productive and highly esteemed faculty member, Akçam has firmly established himself at Clark and in the life of the Center. He expanded the scholarly reach of the Center with his invitation to his friend, fellow Turkish scholar Rifat Bali, to discuss "The Myth of Tolerance: Turkish Policy toward Jews Before and During the Second World War" (see page 10). Looking to develop doctoral study of the Armenian genocide, he actively recruited qualified applicants to the graduate program. Committed to the long-term success of the Center, he served on the Steering Committee. In support of students' initiatives, he chaired a panel at the First International Graduate Students' Conference for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Akçam carries his dedication to grassroots democratic initiatives far beyond the university. As a founder of the Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation, Akçam promotes the ideas of his dear friend, the assassinated Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink. A human rights activist and outspoken leader of the Turkish-Armenian community, Dink advocated for the civil rights of minorities in Turkey. Both Akçam and Dink experienced government scrutiny for writing about the Armenian genocide and were targets of ultra-nationalists. Akçam organized a panel discussion in Boston on the anniversary of Dink's assassination and recently spoke of Dink's legacy for an Amnesty International event.

Fear and intimidation do not diminish Akçam's commitment to scholarly pursuit. Indeed, he sees energy and optimism in the eyes of his Clark students and is encouraged that the Center, through its outreach, education, and scholarship, is at the fore in addressing issues of injustice. "We can change things," he said. "Here at the Center, we have the power."



Taner Akçam, Kaloosdian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies

"You are my hero. Thank you for standing up for the truth in a world in which history has been contested. I am a student living in Andover, Massachusetts, and I truly admire and appreciate your work. You have inspired me to devote my life to the cause of genocide awareness. Thank you for your help and thank you for everything that you do." — Eric Sirakian to Professor Taner Akçam

THOMAS KÜHNE

Thomas Kühne, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History, declares himself deeply satisfied with the past academic year. A scholar of modern European and German history, Kühne completed *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community, 1918–1945* (Yale University Press) and submitted his manuscript for publication. In this, his first book in English, Kühne analyzes the success of Nazi Germany from the unique perspective of comradeship. He writes that the German nation achieved a perverse sense of community through perpetrating genocide. In his view, the Holocaust brought Germans together: “It was a sense of belonging and togetherness, community, even national community which we didn’t have before. In a way, you can say, it’s not only about hate for the Jews, it’s also about love among Germans.”

Another significant milestone for Kühne was the First International Graduate Students’ Conference for Holocaust and Genocide Studies for which he served as academic supervisor. More than a year in planning, the conference was a huge success because it forged links between Center doctoral students and their peers worldwide. In summer 2008 Kühne issued a call for papers, not at all certain what the response would be. He thus took great pleasure in directing his graduate student committee as members reviewed a deluge of more than 130 submissions from around the globe. He helped the students organize the accepted papers into panels moderated by invited scholars and Clark colleagues. The papers, grounded in original research, were excellent—so much so that *Holocaust Studies* journal editor Tom Lawson has invited Kühne to provide a selection for publication in an upcoming issue.

Kühne is committed to fostering a vibrant academic graduate student culture. To that end he served as director of graduate studies and managed this year’s Modern History Colloquium in which students and faculty debated ongoing projects of mutual interest with invited speakers from outside and inside the university. His purpose: to promote the sharing of new research in a setting that engages young scholars with established historians. As faculty advisor to the Rose Library, he was pleased to carry on his collaboration with Diana Bartley, who continues to donate 500 to 600 books annually. Other service to the Center included membership on the Steering Committee and evaluating applications to the Holocaust and Genocide Studies graduate program.

Kühne counsels many students and serves as primary adviser for four graduate students. Robin Krause is completing her dissertation on the German genocide of the Herero, a tribe in present-day Namibia, in the early years of the 20th century; Jody Russell Manning studies Holocaust memory, in particular the experience of young people growing up in the shadow of Auschwitz and Dachau; Michael Geheran explores how the Wehrmacht’s military culture facilitated Hitler’s war of annihilation, especially

in eastern Europe. With Psychology Professor Jaan Valsiner, Kühne co-advises Cristina Andriani, who investigates how the trauma of the Holocaust is transmitted through the generations.

Invitations to publish, lecture, and present at professional meetings provided many opportunities for Kühne to share his innovative scholarship. He discussed male bonding and the Holocaust at a conference at Northwestern University and at the conference “*What is Masculinity? How Useful Is It as a Historical Category?*” at Birkbeck College, University of London. His chapter “Male Bonding and Shame Culture: Hitler’s Soldiers and the Moral Basis of Genocidal Warfare” appeared in *Ordinary People as Mass Murderers: Perpetrators in Comparative Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan 2008). During the past year, he presented papers at two German conferences and lectured on “Nation Building Through Genocide: Germany, 1918–1945,” at the University of California, San Diego, and on “Hitler’s Community: Belonging and Genocide, 1918–1945” at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. He participated in an international conference at Hebrew University devoted to an examination of Jonathan Littell’s controversial novel, *The Kindly Ones*, sharing his perspective as a scholar of perpetrators. A conference at Bar Ilan University and an invitation to speak at Yad Vashem provided additional opportunities to nurture professional relationships with Israeli colleagues and institutions, a goal to which Kühne has been dedicated since his first visit to Israel the previous year. A scholarly exchange has begun to emerge. His long-term aim is shared by his Center colleagues: to institutionalize a formal linkage with an Israeli partner institution.

Kühne strives to integrate his European training into his style of instruction. Whether teaching graduate or undergraduate students, he encourages them to speak up, to argue, and to challenge. In his view, the ability to do so is especially important when dealing with topics such as mass violence and genocide. “Most genocides happened not only because there were a handful of bad guys but also because the mass around them didn’t do anything; they just stood by.” One might say Kühne measures his success by how often he engages in such arguments. In his view, “that’s what a school like Clark should be good for.”

Thomas Kühne, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History





Olga Litvak, Leffell Professor of Modern Jewish History

OLGA LITVAK

It has been an eventful year for Olga Litvak, newly installed as the first Michael and Lisa Leffell Professor in Modern Jewish History. With her expertise in modern East European Jewish history, Litvak contributes to Jewish Studies and the Holocaust and Genocide Studies programs. Her incisive analyses of the art and literature of the period are key components of her scholarship, evidenced by her inaugural lecture, “Death and the Maydl: Jewish Femininity and the Denial of Beauty in the Art of Marc Chagall” (see page 7).

Litvak’s wholly new interpretation of Chagall’s art challenged her audience at Clark and, later, at Colgate and Northwestern University. Gratified when listeners exclaim that they will “never view Chagall in the same way again,” Litvak welcomes the opportunity to confront entrenched ideas and was pleased to give a special presentation, “Oedipus, Shmoedipus, The Historical Origins of the Jewish Mother,” to prospective Clark students at the Presidential Scholars’ Open House.

As lively a speaker as she is compelling a scholar, Litvak is the recipient of many lecture invitations. She delivered “Military Conscription in Russian Jewish History” at SUNY-Binghamton and “The Visual Legacy of Eastern European Jewry” at Temple Shaare Zion, Montreal. At a special University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign conference in memory of John Klier, whose scholarship focused on Jewish-Russian relations, she presented “In the Evil Kingdom of Things: Sholem Aleichem and the Problem of Everyday Life in Russian-Jewish Literature.”

“Olga Litvak is my friend, my co-conspirator in East European Jewish history, and a muse. She is, as you know, brilliant, dynamic, and incredibly funny, and one of the most passionate teachers and scholars I’ve ever met.”

— Nancy Sinkoff, associate professor of Jewish studies and history, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Litvak also maintains a rigorous publication pace. She edited the “Painting and Sculpture” volume of the landmark *YIVO Encyclopedia of Eastern European Jews* (Yale 2008), the first reference work of its kind. This year, “Khavé and Her Sisters: Sholem Aleichem and the Lost Girls of 1905,” will appear in *Jewish Social Studies*. Her review of *The Revolution of 1905 and Its Jews* (ed. Ezra Mendelsohn and Stefani Hoffman) was published in *Slavic Review* last fall, while the chapter “Jews in Russia” will appear in the *Cambridge History of Judaism* in 2010. Litvak’s current project, a volume about the Jewish Enlightenment called *Haskalah*, will be published in 2010 as part of the Rutgers University Press series “Keywords in Jewish Studies.”

Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will support Litvak’s next major book project: a biography of the beloved Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem. Remarkably, it will be the first biography written about this significant figure in Jewish literature and cultural history. She expects the project will keep her occupied for several years to come.

Litvak appreciates the intimate setting at Clark that allows for ample contact with students. “[Everyone] engages in their own intellectual work, yet there’s a sense of community,” she said. Upon joining the Clark community, Litvak was grateful for the warm welcome she received from Center Director Debórah Dwork who unequivocally supports Litvak’s mission to provide a gateway into the rich varieties of the Jewish experience, an area of scholarship that complements the Center’s focus. “One of the reasons I decided to come here was to give students who spend their time studying the annihilation of a people a sense of how the Jews lived,” she said, explaining that she’d like the study of Jewish life to have a more robust presence. “Inevitably, the study of genocide focuses on endings, often at the expense of exploring continuity and survival.” The Center faculty agree with her wholeheartedly, and look forward to her development of that component of the program.

The Clark student culture, with its seriousness of purpose, energizes Litvak. And she fits nicely into the mix. “Students naturally want to save the world, fix all of the big and complicated problems, put an end to genocide, eliminate poverty—and they really mean it,” she said. “I would like to think that the study of the humanities aims to show what makes the world worth saving.”

SHELLY TENENBAUM

Clark's 2009 Outstanding Teacher of the Year is Sociology Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, coordinator of the Center's undergraduate activities. Under her guidance, the undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies has grown to become the second-largest on campus following pre-law. "I put a great deal of effort and time into my teaching. I think my students appreciate that," said Tenenbaum. Clark students also selected her for this year's Winston Napier Faculty Diversity Award in recognition of her efforts to promote diverse ideas on campus through her courses and her involvement in the Race and Ethnic Studies and Jewish Studies concentrations. Tenenbaum enjoys collaborating with faculty from all corners of the Clark campus on innovative courses and cross-disciplinary initiatives.

Tenenbaum and English Professor Betsy Huang launched an unconventional seminar—exploring race and ethnic relations through the distinct viewpoints of Asian- and Jewish-American experience. Tenenbaum says the seminar provided "one of the highlights of the year" when it opened a provocative and productive dialogue about the swastika and its divergent meaning for Hindus and Jews. The seminar prompted Hillel (the Jewish student organization) and SASA (the South Asian Students Association) to hold further discussions outside of class. "Unlike the Jewish students who viewed the swastika as a symbol of hate, students who were Hindu had a very positive association with the swastika; they associated it with good luck and prosperity," said Tenenbaum. "According to the students, the discussion wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for our class."

Tenenbaum encouraged Srini Sitaraman, assistant professor of government, to simulate a Genocide Crisis Forum for his fall course, "United Nations and International Politics" (see page 8). She worked with him to mount a day-long weekend event in which Sitaraman organized his students as representatives of different countries (similar to Model U.N.). The aim was to develop a joint proposal to stop the genocide in Darfur. Inspired by the program's success, Sitaraman and Tenenbaum plan to hold the forum annually, perhaps involving other college and high school students.

As HGS coordinator for undergraduate activities, Tenenbaum advised 18 concentrators as well as students in sociology, race and ethnic relations, and Jewish studies. She served as faculty advisor for Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), a coalition opposing genocide (see page 36). A rewarding responsibility of her coordinator position is advising students interested in applying for summer internship stipends. She oversees the competitive process and this year was pleased to make awards to three students for internships at the Museum of the American Indian, the Human Rights Initiative, and at Facing History and Ourselves. Tenenbaum sits on the Center's Steering Committee and every year arranges a lecture as part of the Especially for Students series (see page 9).

Tenenbaum thinks deeply about teaching. In December, she organized a panel and presented a paper on "Teaching American Jewish Studies" for the Association for Jewish Studies. She also initiated a pedagogy task force within the Association. At Clark, she chaired a panel on Holocaust and genocide education for the First International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and secured the participation of HGS undergraduate concentrators at the conference.

She shares her expertise as an editorial board member for *AJS Perspectives* (the magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies), serves as a member of the Nominations Committee for the Association for Jewish Studies, is a consultant to the Association for Jewish Studies Census Project and is on the Academic Advisory Council of the Jewish Women's Archive.

Following a sabbatical in 2009–2010, she anticipates overseeing an oral history project on survivors of genocide and ethnic violence living in the Worcester area. Tenenbaum looks forward to partnering with International Development Associate Professor Anita Fábos and Studio Art Professor Sarah Buie on the year-long course that will culminate in an exhibition at the Center in spring 2011. Tenenbaum believes it will be a great experience for students as well as survivors. "It's tough stuff," she says, referring to interviews with individuals who endured trauma. "But it's very powerful."



Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, HGS Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities

JAAAN VALSINER

This fall, the Center and the Hiatt School of Psychology inaugurated a new doctoral stream: psychology of genocide. Professors Jaan Valsiner and Thomas Kühne co-advised Weil Fellow Cristina Andriani, the first student to pursue a Ph.D. in social psychology with a focus on the Holocaust (see page 37). These distinct areas of scholarship prove synergistic in Andriani's research on how Holocaust trauma is transmitted through the generations.

Accustomed to working with colleagues across disciplinary boundaries, Valsiner recognized that students of social psychology and genocide share essential concerns. Valsiner admired the excellent research undertaken at the Center and the caliber of the Ph.D. students. Noting that "the psychology/history connection is usually very limited," he was persuaded that a partnership would provide opportunities for doctoral students from both fields to work jointly on research projects and papers. Moreover, the success of such "cross-training" would open a promising prospect for the scholarly world far beyond Clark.

Valsiner offers the Center his expertise and energy in many ways. He joined the Steering Committee, taught "Social and Cultural Psychology of Genocides" as a graduate seminar, and offered independent reading courses to doctoral students interested in exploring how cultural and social psychology can illuminate central genocide studies questions.



Professor Jaan Valsiner

An energetic and productive scholar, he contributed a book chapter, "The Social and the Cultural: Where Do They Meet?" to *Meaning in Action: Constructions, Narratives, and Representations* (Springer), co-edits *Cultural Psychology of Human Values*, and is editing a three-book series: *Advances in Cultural Psychology* (Information Age Publishers), *Cultural Psychology of Social Representation* (Routledge), and *Theory and History of Psychology* (Transaction Publishers). He recently was named editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Culture and Psychology*, slated for publication in 2011. He is the founding editor of *Culture & Psychology* (Sage 1995) and *Integrative Psychological & Behavioral Science* (Springer).

Valsiner travelled the globe last year, lecturing at East China Normal University in Shanghai, and presenting papers at the 29th International Congress of Psychology in Berlin, the Society of Research in Child Development (Denver), and at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Psychological Association in Sapporo. He delivered keynote presentations at the latter and at the Facing the Future conference at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

Valsiner envisions ever stronger links between the Hiatt School of Psychology and the Center. This is but one reason he is so pleased that social psychologist Johanna Vollhardt joined the Department of Psychology faculty. A social psychologist whose expertise focuses on genocide-related research questions, Vollhardt is a Center faculty affiliate. Valsiner applauds everyone involved in fostering this collaboration. "It has potential not only for keeping Clark relevant and visible, but for producing very interesting social scientists."

PROGRAM FACULTY

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

Taner Akçam, Ph.D., History Department,
Kaloosdian Mugar Associate 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 Professor of Modern Jewish History

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

Srinivasan Sitaraman, Ph.D., Government and International
Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government

Valerie Sperling, Ph.D., Government and International
Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government

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

Jaan Valsiner, Ph.D., Psychology Department,
Professor of Psychology

Kristen Williams, Ph.D., Government and International
Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government







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 NEWS

The Center celebrated the 10th anniversary of its landmark Ph.D. program in 2008–09. An initial class of three students began their studies in 1998 and five years later Clark University granted the first doctoral degrees specifically in Holocaust history. Growing exponentially each year, the Ph.D. program shines bright, attracting international applicants from as far afield as China, South America, and Africa. Current doctoral students come to us from Austria, Canada, Germany, Israel, Lebanon, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States.

The doctoral program has matured into a community of scholars who cultivate an intellectual environment both intimate and lively. Students remark upon the Center's uniquely supportive scholarly culture. Claims Conference Fellow Raz Segal describes his colleagues as bringing "varied perspectives with different accents" yielding "discussions that are complex, diverse, and fruitful." Such a cooperative setting was essential for the students to organize the highly successful, first-ever International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies (see pages 16–17).

The future of Holocaust and genocide studies research is reflected in the range of topics upon which our students have embarked. We welcome the questions they pose and the original scholarship they bring to bear.

CRISTINA ANDRIANI

Cristina Andriani, the Center's Robert Weil Fellow, embarked upon the first interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree in psychology of genocide. Managing a dual course load in Holocaust history and social psychology, Andriani enthusiastically paves a new academic path (see page 37). Indeed, she has already begun to make a mark in this emerging field with scholarly publications. This year she collaborated with Julia Chaitin and Elia Awaad on "Belonging to the Conflict: Collective Identities among Israeli and Palestinian Émigrés to the United States," published in the journal *Social Identities*. She continues to work with Professor Chaitin of Sapir Academic College, Israel, on an article exploring the collective identity of Jewish-Israeli émigrés as experienced by one family of *sabras* (native Israelis). The initial findings from the analysis of life-story interviews were presented at the First International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Traveling through Israel during the summer, Andriani continued to forge contacts for her dissertation research on the impact of Holocaust trauma on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

ELIZABETH ANTHONY

Claims Conference Fellow Elizabeth Anthony completed her second year of doctoral study. Like nearly all Center graduate students, Anthony came to the program with an advanced degree and work experience. Her five-year service as deputy director of survivor affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) fostered a scholarly interest in the survivor experience and her dissertation focuses on survivors who returned to Vienna after the war. She has presented aspects of this research: "Seegasse 9: Serving Vienna's Jewish Elderly Immediately after the Holocaust" at the *Beyond Camps and Forced Labour* conference held at the Imperial War Museum in London; and "Rückkehrer: Holocaust Survivors' Repatriation to Austria" at the First Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She elaborated themes from both talks in a coauthored (with Dr. Dirk Rupnow-paper) article, "Ein jüdisches Altersheim im Wien der Nachkriegsjahre: Die Betreuung von älteren Überlebenden nach dem Holocaust," published in *Beiträge zur deutschen und jüdischen Geschichte* by the Nürnberger Institut für NS-Forschung und jüdische Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts e.V.

Anthony enjoyed the opportunity to jump back into archives this summer, foraging through the Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv and the Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes in Vienna and the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for material on "her" Viennese survivor returnees.



Top: Claims Conference Fellow Elizabeth Anthony
Bottom: Center Graduate Students Joanna Sliwa, Emily Dabney, Adara Goldberg, and Natalya Lazar

EMILY DABNEY

Emily Dabney, the Richard P. Cohen, M.D. Fellow, investigates internment camps in French North Africa during the Second World War. Her research this past year at the Archives d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence, the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris, the American Friends Service Committee Archives in Philadelphia and the Jewish Joint Distribution Archives in New York elucidated the history of former French military volunteers detained in North African camps. This is just one aspect of the history of these astonishingly understudied camps. Thanks to Dr. Radu Ioanid, director of International Archival Programs at the USHMM, Dabney was granted the opportunity to examine newly acquired documents from French North Africa now held in the museum archives. The door opened at the perfect moment. Having completed her two years of coursework in the program, Dabney is poised to embark upon fulltime dissertation research.

MICHAEL GEHERAN

Siff Fellow Michael Geheran completed his first year of Ph.D. study and declared his intention to investigate the genocidal war waged by the German military in Eastern Europe, specifically how the military culture of the Wehrmacht facilitated Hitler's war of annihilation. A German-born new American who served in the U.S. military, Geheran is uniquely qualified to study German military history. He explored one aspect of this field in 2008–09: German-Jewish WWI veterans under the Nazis. His archival research at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York yielded "*Keine Kameraden: German-Jewish WWI Veterans under the Third Reich*," which he presented at Clark University's Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference as well as at the First International Graduate Students' Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. In addition, he attended the Society for Military History's annual conference, *Warfare and Culture*, and the German Studies Association workshop, *Ways of War: Violence in Modern Germany*. Geheran's review of Matthias Sprenger's new work on the legacy of the *Freikorps* paramilitary movement in post-WWI Germany was published on the German Social Sciences and Humanities' online forum, *H-Soz-U-Kult Geschichte*.



Siff Fellow Michael Geheran (left)

ADARA GOLDBERG

Adara Goldberg is the Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow. She sailed through her doctoral qualifying exams in April, earning the official status of doctoral candidate. Throughout the year, Goldberg returned to her native Canada to dig into her dissertation, “‘We Were Called Greenies’: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada.” She pursued new research opportunities in Canada’s premiere archive for Canadian Jewry, the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archive in Montreal, continued her work in the Ontario Jewish Archives, and conducted interviews with Holocaust survivors in Toronto. The First International Graduate Students’ Conference and the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Annual Conference for Humanities and Social Sciences, Ottawa, offered opportunities to present aspects of her dissertation research. During the summer, she travelled throughout Canada to interview survivors and to explore local archives.

ALEXIS HERR

Claims Conference Fellow Alexis Herr seeks to explore the history, postwar uses, and collective memory of Fossoli di Carpi, Italy’s largest deportation camp. At the First International Graduate Students’ Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Herr presented her preliminary dissertation research in a paper, “Trapped in Limbo: The History and Memory of Fossoli di Carpi.” Her investigations took her to the Istituto Storico di Modena and the Centro Documentazione Ebraico Contemporaneo in Milan this past year, where she uncovered material never used before.

Herr embraced opportunities to widen her expertise in comparative genocide studies. At Clark’s Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference, she was pleased to present “Religious Institutions and Memory after Genocide: The Rwandan and Armenian Genocides,” in which she compared Church memorialization in response to the Rwandan and Armenian genocides. She gained practical experience, too, serving as interim assistant executive director this summer at the activist organization Jewish World Watch in Los Angeles, where she engaged in initiatives to stop the genocide in Darfur and conducted research on conflict minerals in Congo. She gained valuable practice in public speaking, talking to groups of 200 people and more.

STEFAN IONESCU

Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow Stefan Ionescu completed his doctoral qualifying exams and happily embarked upon the next phase of graduate study: dissertation writing. A native of Bucharest, he returned to Romania to continue research begun last summer in the local archives on his project, “Opportunities, Ideology, and Opposition in World War II Bucharest: Gentile Responses to the Romanization Process during the Antonescu Regime, 1940–1944.” Honing his writing skills, Ionescu published two articles: “Myths, Narratives and Patterns of Rumors: The Construction of ‘Jewish Subversion’ and Retributive Violence in 1940–1941 Romania” in *Culture and Psychology* (vol. XII, no. 3, 2009) and “The Dynamic Concepts of Resistance and Collaboration in Post-Holocaust Remembrance: Revisiting the Personal Narratives of Jewish Survivors from Romania” in *Studia Politica* (vol. IX, no. 2, 2009).

JEFFREY KOERBER

Tapper Fellow Jeffrey Koerber spent his fifth year of graduate studies writing his doctoral dissertation, “Born in the Borderlands: Jewish Youth and Their Response to Oppression and Genocide, 1933–1948,” a comparative study of Jewish youth in Vitebsk in the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Grodno in the Second Polish Republic. In the fall, Koerber completed his Fulbright year at the Polish Center for Holocaust Research in Warsaw following his forced departure from Belarus in April 2008 due to deteriorating U.S.-Belarusian relations. In Warsaw, he found key documents at the Jewish Historical Institute and Polish National Library and established important contacts with Polish institutions devoted to Jewish and Holocaust history. Awarded the Peter Hayes Research Fellowship by the Holocaust Educational Foundation, Koerber will travel to Yad Vashem for archival research. He plans to complete his dissertation in 2010.

Like his fellow students, Koerber enjoys opportunities to speak about his work in progress. He presented an overview of his research to the Clark University Modern History Colloquium and, at the First International Graduate Students’ Conference, he discussed the prewar experience of young Jews in Soviet Vitebsk and how it shaped their responses to the Holocaust.



Tapper Fellow Jeffrey Koerber



Top: Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow Stefan Ionescu (center) with Center supporters Melody and David Rose
Bottom: Hevrony Fellow Natalya Lazar

NATALYA LAZAR

Natalya Lazar, a native of Chernivtsi, Ukraine, is the recipient of the Hevrony Family Trust Fellowship. Interested in interethnic relations during the Holocaust, she plans to focus her research on Bukovina, a region of Eastern Europe currently divided between Romania and Ukraine. Lazar jumped into the archives during this, her first year of the program, starting with the Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University library which holds the largest collection of documents and books on the history of Bukovina. The local periodic press is also there, including a collection of Jewish newspapers from the interwar period which are of special interest to Lazar. Microfilms of the Romanian language newspaper *The Bukovina*, the official publication of the Romanian occupation authorities, claimed her attention as well. Lazar obtained special permission to study a collection of documents in the State Archive of Chernivtsi Oblast containing eyewitness accounts of the genocide of Bukovinian Jews and records of post-war Soviet trials. Her interest in the Holocaust in Eastern Europe extends beyond Bukovina. She presented “Russian and Soviet Concentration Camps: Continuity and Change” at the First International Graduate Students’ Conference.



Claims Conference Fellow Alexis Herr and Ilana Offenberger

JODY RUSSELL MANNING

Fromson 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.” Manning analyzes the impact of tourism and the influence of outsider perceptions on the relationship between memorials and their surrounding communities. The recipient of a European Studies Fellowship from the University of Michigan, Manning discussed his doctoral project with participants in the Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute in Krakow. In addition, he resumed research and work at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum for a fifth summer. He collaborated with Israeli educators from Yad Vashem during the annual seminar, “Auschwitz in the Collective Consciousness of Poland and the World.”

Ever ready to convey his research and insights, Manning was generous in presenting to the Clark student community. His lecture and discussion, “Honors Thesis Writing: Problems, Pitfalls, and Solutions,” shed light on historical methodology and the challenges of writing for History Department honors students. He spoke about “Holocaust Memorials and Their Cities” to student colleagues at the Strassler Center Graduate Students’ Brown Bag Series, and “The Legacy of Utopian Visions on Oświęcim” at the Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference. Manning’s activities and projects reflect his eagerness to reach audiences beyond Clark. As a panelist at the Worcester premiere of Marc P. Smith’s play, “Karski,” he discussed Poland during the Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations. And he achieved a professional milestone this year, editing the English edition of Henryk Świebocicki’s *Ludzie Dobrej Woli: Księga Pamięci Mieszkańców Ziemi Oświęcimskiej Niosących Pomoc Więźniom KL Auschwitz (People of Good Will: A Memorial Book of the Residents of the Land of Oswiecim Who Aided Auschwitz Prisoners)* which will be published by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.



Claims Conference Fellow Raz Segal

RAZ SEGAL

Claims Conference Fellow Raz Segal came to the Center buoyed by a fellowship from the Fulbright Foundation. He also was honored to receive a Targum Shlishi Dissertation Grant from the Raquel and Aryeh Rubin Foundation and the YIVO Institute's Natalia and Mendel Racolin Memorial Fellowship to support research on his dissertation, "Embittered Legacies: Genocide in Subcarpathian Rus." He looks forward to presenting his preliminary findings at YIVO in February, and all are welcome to attend. Building upon research conducted at YIVO in 2008–09 and in a private collection amassed by Meir Frankel of Brooklyn, N.Y., Segal pursued archival research this summer at Yad Vashem, the Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry in Safed, Israel, and the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives in Budapest.

Recognized for his expertise on the region of Subcarpathian Rus', Segal was invited to contribute entries on the ghettos of Munkács, Ungvár, Beregszász, Nagyszollos, and Huszt to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945* (2009).

A frequent conference participant, Segal delivered "Public and Popular Discourses of the Jewish-Palestinian Conflict" at the Fulbright Forum in Boston. Organizer of a panel on "Bystanders to the Holocaust of Hungarian Jewry" for the First International Graduate Students' Conference, he presented "National Revival and Genocide: The Case of Ruthenian Bystanders to the Destruction of Subcarpathian Rus' Jewry." Returning to his native Israel in the summer of 2009 to conduct research, Segal gave papers at the Association for Israeli Studies Annual Conference, where he spoke about "The Holocaust in Israeli Discourses: Hebrew and Yiddish Translations" (co-authored with Professor Jens Meierhenrich of Harvard University), and the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, presenting "The Jews of Munkács in the Interwar Period: A Crisis of Late Modernism." Segal also used the summer months to travel to Hungary to take an intensive language course, supported by a grant from the Hungarian Scholarship Board, and to participate in the International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry in Budapest, which he was selected to join.

"Let me just say, on behalf of the Fulbright Association, how much we admired your honesty and directness in dealing with one of the most sensitive issues in American foreign policy. I think everyone present at the forum found your presentation to be interesting and provocative." — Professor James Reed, president, Massachusetts

Chapter of the Fulbright Association, to doctoral student Raz Segal



Claims Conference Fellow Joanna Sliwa

JOANNA SLIWA

Claims Conference Fellow Joanna Sliwa focuses on the Holocaust in Poland. Dedicated to examining Polish-Jewish history and active in the American-Polish community, Sliwa earned a scholarship from the Polish Student Organization. During her first year of the program, her research on her dissertation, "Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Kraków," took her to the USHMM. Eager to share her work, she presented her preliminary findings at three conferences: "The Effects of Holodomor on Ukrainian Children" at the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Educational Conference at Kean University; "Hidden Children Become Priests: The Story of Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel and Grzegorz Pawłowski (Jakub Hersz Griner)" at Clark's Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference; and "Coping with the Distorted Reality: Children in the Kraków Ghetto" at the First International Graduate Students' Conference. Following her summer 2008 fellowship at the Auschwitz Jewish Center (AJC), Sliwa published "Renewing Links with the Past," in the AJC Fellows e-newsletter.

Awarded a scholarship from the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, she participated in the Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture in summer 2009. And, having served as a Lipper Intern in 2007 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, she continued to guide visitors to the museum and to speak to student groups about Jewish heritage and the Holocaust. An outstanding student throughout her career, Sliwa was profiled in the spring 2009 issue of *Kean Magazine*.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Three doctoral students will embark upon graduate studies in fall 2009. They hail from disparate locations—the American south, Lebanon, and Germany. Such geographic variety enriches the intellectual environment Center students enjoy and affords new perspectives on difficult subject matter. These new students bring fresh talent to an already robust and internationally diverse scholarly community.

Two of the students will concentrate on the history of the Holocaust. The third will focus on the Armenian genocide, bringing to fruition the Center's long-held vision to foster comparative study of genocide.

KHATCHIG MOURADIAN

Khatchig Mouradian is the Center's first Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow in Armenian Genocide Studies. Born and educated in Beirut, he has worked as a newspaper editor and writer, both in the U.S. and Lebanon, publishing in numerous languages (Armenian, Arabic, French, English, and Turkish). A journalist and writer since his teenage years, Mouradian was invited to become chief editor of *The Armenian Weekly* in 2007. In a short time, he helped transform the paper into an international forum for academics, authors, and journalists. His proposed dissertation will examine Armenian newspapers from the post-genocide period to the present as part of an effort to understand the experiences of survivors.

Mouradian became a professional journalist in Lebanon, serving as editor of the Lebanese-Armenian *Aztag Daily* from 2000 to 2007. His articles, interviews, and poems have been published internationally and translated into many languages. He has lectured extensively and participated in conferences in Armenia, Turkey, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, and across the U.S. Mouradian's academic publications include "From Yeghern to Genocide: Armenian Newspapers, Raphael Lemkin and the Road to the UN Genocide Convention" (*Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. 29, 2009). In June 2009, he delivered the Sixth Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Lecture at the University of Minnesota.

KIMBERLY PARTEE

Kimberly Partee enters the doctoral program as the Simon and Eve Colin Fellow in Holocaust history. Raised in the American south, Partee is sensitive to racism and discrimination in all contexts. As an undergraduate at Amherst College, she pursued a course of study that focused on the history of the Holocaust and the preservation of memory; her work culminated in an honor's thesis on the postwar history of Auschwitz. Through two travel grants, she was able to conduct research for that project in Poland.

In her graduate studies, Partee will continue to investigate how memory is constructed, a topic of growing interest to Holocaust historians. Concentrating on the Holocaust in Poland, she plans to investigate how memory shapes historical narrative through a comparative study of Auschwitz and Jedwabne, a town in eastern Poland that was the site of a brutal postwar pogrom. Partee comes to Clark via the University of Burgundy where she has spent the past year honing her French language skills.

JAN TAUBITZ

Center Fellow Jan Taubitz enters the doctoral program with a similar focus on Holocaust memory. Yet, like fellow first-year student Khatchig Mouradian, he approaches memory from the perspective of the survivors. Taubitz draws upon the philosophical paradox of an insoluble contradiction, or *aporia*, which Holocaust survivors face as they struggle with bearing witness to the unspeakable. As an intern at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Taubitz studied survivor testimonies of the Sonderkommando, prisoners who worked in the crematories and gas chambers. Their testimonies reveal how memories of particularly gruesome experiences evolve as survivors strive to bring order and comprehension to these events.

Taubitz studied social sciences and modern history in Erfurt, Germany. Already widely experienced with Holocaust institutions, he has held internships at the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials, Yad Vashem, and the Thuringian State Archive. As a volunteer with student groups from Germany, Poland, and Israel, he participated in seminars held at some of the most notorious sites of the Holocaust, such as Auschwitz, Chelmno, Bergen Belsen, and Buchenwald. Following a seminar project on Topf and Sons, builders of the Auschwitz ovens, he became engaged in a project investigating the Holocaust history of his hometown, Erfurt, where the company was headquartered. Then, as a student in Uppsala, Sweden, he came to question how Holocaust memory contributes to European identity. His interest in memory and identity shape his long-term goal: to advance understanding of the Holocaust by working in a Holocaust museum or memorial.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) program offers a rich course of study across a multiplicity of departments. Voting with their feet, an ever-growing number of HGS concentrators and other undergraduates take advantage of this interdisciplinary education. Clark undergraduates are motivated by deep concern about injustice mixed with avid curiosity about all corners of the globe to investigate the history and ongoing horror of genocide and mass violence.

In 2008–09, 11 professors in 7 departments taught 18 courses with enrollments totaling 375, or just about one-fifth of the entire Clark undergraduate student body. Additional faculty members will contribute new areas of expertise this year.

HGS INTERNSHIPS

Internships and co-curricular activities allow HGS students to put their learning and research into practice and provide opportunities to contribute to the Center's mission of shaping a more peaceable future. Thanks to funds endowed by the Belfer Family Foundation, Debra '77 and Jeffrey '76 Geller, and the Haskell and Ina Gordon fund, three students received summer internship stipends through the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program:

Mikal Brotnov '10, an HGS concentrator, interned at the Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. He helped develop web-based materials for school audiences in support of the museum's National Education Initiative.

Rachel Eichorn '12, who plans to major in international development and social change, spent her summer working with the Human Rights Initiative of Texas, which helps people seeking asylum in the United States, often as political refugees.

Kevin Hackley '12, an HGS concentrator, interned at Facing History and Ourselves, based in Brookline, Mass. The organization partners with school systems, universities, and ministries of education worldwide to inspire young people to take responsibility for their world.

STAND FOCUS WIDENS TO INCLUDE CONGO, BURMA

The Clark chapter of STAND, the student arm of the Genocide Intervention Network, underwent changes in leadership this year and expanded its focus beyond Darfur to include the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burma (Myanmar). The chapter's well-attended screening of "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" was followed by a question-and-answer session led by a doctoral student and an undergraduate student. Chapter members also created informational slides about the conflicts in Congo and Burma that helped students familiarize themselves with ongoing issues in those countries.

Fundraising for the Genocide Intervention Network is a large part of the chapter's work. Creative efforts included holding a benefit dance and meal-swipe donations. Students donated the proceeds from forgoing meals on their meal plan toward civilian protection initiatives in Darfur. Chapter members also held a "Day of Action" in which students wrote to their representatives and signed petitions encouraging them to take action to end any one of the conflicts in Darfur, Congo, and Burma.



Top: Mikal Brotnov '10
Bottom: Nora Newhard '09 (right), Avril Alba, Shirley
and Ralph Rose Fellow Adara Goldberg (left)

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRACK: PSYCHOLOGY OF GENOCIDE

Fortuitous circumstances brought me to the Strassler Center as the first-ever doctoral candidate in psychology of genocide. My path to Clark began while I was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in conflict analysis and resolution. I received a pressing call from my former professor, Julia Chaitin, who teaches social psychology at Sapir Academic College and Ben Gurion University. Professor Chaitin had lectured at the Strassler Center in 2007* and urged me to apply for a new fellowship funded by Robert Weil to support an interdisciplinary program of study in social psychology and Holocaust and genocide studies, which seemed tailor-made to my interests. Happily, my application was successful and I arrived to the challenge of fulfilling the incipient promise of this unique initiative.

History is the study of past events; psychology the study of human behavior. At the Strassler Center, these disciplines converge in an innovative psychology of genocide track. This new avenue of study was suggested by the eminent social psychologist Professor Dan Bar-On (of blessed memory),* builds upon robust links with Clark's renowned Psychology Department, and reflects the interdisciplinary approach that underlies Center scholarship. My Center doctoral colleagues will earn degrees in history; my Ph.D. will be in social psychology. Over the past academic year, I have seen that our diverse disciplinary interests enrich the Center's intellectual community.

In my previous life as a psychotherapist specializing in trauma-based disorders, my practice started with sexual perpetrators who were inmates in the Florida prison system. I observed that many had themselves been victims of trauma and I became interested in how such past suffering had shaped their lives. My subsequent work in a psychiatric facility with trauma survivors indicated that some of them later engaged in perpetrator behaviors. These observations carry over to my present research. The intersection of history and psychology is essential to my prospective dissertation which examines how the trauma of the Holocaust affects Israeli attitudes toward the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict. My faculty advisors in psychology and Holocaust and genocide studies have embraced the topic. Social psychologist Jaan Valsiner has guided my investigation of theories explaining inter- and intra-personal dynamics of memory construction and the complexities of collective identity formation. With Thomas Kühne, my advisor in Holocaust studies, I have focused on the nuances of perpetrator behaviors and victimization in the Holocaust.

Scholarship in the area of psychology of genocide now benefits from a new faculty member. Professor Johanna Vollhardt has joined Clark's Psychology Department and serves as a faculty affiliate with the Strassler Center. Vollhardt's research explores the response of individual victims to discrimination and ethnopolitical violence. Examining social psychological processes, she provides insight into the reactions of individual victims and victimized groups. Her research complements my area of interest and will grow the innovative psychology of genocide track. —*Cristina Andriani*



Robert Weil Fellow Cristina Andriani

*Barbara and Nathan Greenberg funded Professor Bar-On as the 2005 Distinguished Visiting Scholar. Shirley and Robert Siff supported Professor Chaitin's 2007 visit.

LIFE AFTER THE CENTER

News reports remind us all too frequently that expertise in Holocaust history and comparative genocide is critically important. Denial of the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide; the ongoing genocide in Darfur; mass violence in Congo, legacy of the Rwandan genocide—these assaults on humanity reverberate around the globe. In their lives after the Center, our students and graduates continue to study, research, teach, and agitate to educate and engage in the work of genocide prevention. Their recent activities are reported here.

BETH COHEN PH.D. '03

Beth Cohen was selected by Facing History and Ourselves (FHO) to lead a new three-year pilot program funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation to bring the FHO curriculum into Jewish day schools. She balances this with her own scholarship on child survivors in the post-war years, beginning immediately after the Holocaust in Europe and continuing with the reception children experienced as refugees in the United States. She enjoyed many speaking engagements this past year, including delivering the keynote address at Loyola Marymount University's Kristallnacht Commemoration and presenting her research at California State University, Long Beach as part of the Jewish Studies Department's ongoing lecture series. She gave papers at the Association of Jewish Studies conference, the *Current Research in Survivors of Nazi Persecution* conference (London) and Western Jewish Studies conference (Denver). She will be equally peripatetic this fall, with a paper at *The Myth of Silence* conference at University of California, Los Angeles, a lecture at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and a panel on survivors at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Expanding upon one aspect of her dissertation, Cohen published "From Case File to Testimony: Reconstructing Survivors' First Years in America" in *The Impact of the Holocaust in American Life*, the latest issue of the *Casden Annual* (a journal of the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, USC).

SARAH CUSHMAN (ABD)

Sarah Cushman is assistant director of education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. The demand for Holocaust education on Long Island is great, and she now manages a burgeoning group of around 40 volunteers; coordinates an annual art, literature, and music competition; middle school Tolerance Days; professional development workshops; and a summer institute on teaching the Holocaust. She also oversees the cataloguing and care of a collection of artifacts. In addition to these professional demands, she continues to make progress on her dissertation, "The Women of Birkenau."

TIBERIU GALIS (ABD)

Tiberiu Galis continues to write his dissertation, "Transitional Justice and Transition to a New Regime: Making Sense of Uncertain Times." Galis's study is a comparative examination of post-conflict societies and their efforts to establish a viable co-existence between victims and perpetrators. As a scholar of post-conflict resolution, Galis is well suited to serve as managing director of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. His chief task has been to plan the Raoul Wallenberg Seminar Series and he will oversee three seminars in Auschwitz this fall. Designed for future policy makers who are government officials of ministries of culture and education from the member states of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the week-long workshops focus on issues related to Holocaust education and memorialization. Situated at the most notorious death camp, these trainings remind participants of the final result of government indifference. Galis references the tragedy of the Holocaust to educate leaders from throughout the international community about genocide prevention.

BETH LILACH (ABD)

Beth Lilach is director of education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. She is also an adjunct professor at Hofstra University where she is co-founder of the Genocide Fellowship Program. Passionate about education and engaged with her community, she serves on the Nassau County Task Force on Bias Crimes and the Latino-Jewish Council of Long Island. She is indefatigable in bringing the history and legacy of the Holocaust to community institutions throughout Long Island, including: the Attorney's Roundtable, the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital, Adelphi University, Nassau Association of District Curriculum Officials, Nassau County Superintendents' Association, Nassau Community College, the Nassau County Supreme Court, and local community centers, synagogues, and schools.



Program Director Dr. Tatyana Macaulay (left), and Ilana Offenberger

ILANA F. OFFENBERGER (ABD)

Ilana F. Offenberger is determined to complete her dissertation “The Nazification of Vienna and the Response of the Viennese Jews,” and is buoyed by her dissertation director Debórah Dwork’s prediction that she will earn the title of Doctor Offenberger in 2009. Early in her research phase, Offenberger enjoyed special access to a newly found collection of archival documents from the Jewish Community of Vienna. Comprising the most extensive collection of material on Jewish life in Vienna during the war, these materials have been central to her dissertation research.

Offenberger took pleasure in presenting “Forced Emigration 1938–39: The Role of the IKG in the Rescue and Destruction of Viennese Jewry” at the Seventieth Anniversary Reunion of the Kindertransport Association (Orlando, FL) and “From Vienna to Dachau: Terror in 1938” to the Worcester Club in Worcester, MA. The responses of survivors and their children and grandchildren to the first, and of members of the general public who have no personal connection to the Holocaust to the second, were deeply gratifying. She was equally thrilled to be among colleagues and doctoral students at the First International Graduate Students’ Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, where she chaired a panel on “Jewish Life in Nazi Ghettos.”

“I’ve spoken with people who attended your talk at the Worcester Club and many thought this was the best and most moving evening in quite some time. Your talk was informative and interesting; certainly disquieting, but very well done.”

—Chris and Susan Dougherty to doctoral candidate Ilana Offenberger

CHRISTINE SCHMIDT PH.D. '03

Christine Schmidt is communications officer for the Public Interest Law Institute, an international nongovernmental organization that advances human rights around the world by promoting public interest advocacy. Based in Budapest, Hungary, Schmidt manages outreach, media strategy and publications, and oversees web development and other external communications. She is also an adjunct assistant professor of history for the University of Maryland, University College, teaching historical survey, methodology, and 20th-century European history courses. Formerly director of education at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR), Schmidt now serves as a consultant to the JFR, developing pedagogical materials and finalizing a travelling exhibit on rescue.

A recipient of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Fellowship this year, Schmidt continues to engage in Holocaust scholarship. In addition to serving as a referee for the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, she contributed encyclopedia entries on detention centers in Hungary to the USHMM’s *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945* (2009). The volume includes several dozen entries Schmidt wrote while working at the USHMM in 2003–2005. Forthcoming publications include *Drops in the Ocean: Rescue Operations of Jews in Southern France and Hungary during the Holocaust*, (Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, CUNY 2009) and several Holocaust entries in the *Dictionary of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture* (Cambridge University Press 2009).

LOTTA STONE (ABD)

Lotta Stone completed a stint as interim director of education for the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous where she was pleased to participate in its important Summer Institute for Teachers. She has now turned her full attention to the task of completing her dissertation, “Seeking Asylum: German Jewish Refugees in South Africa, 1933–1945.” Like her colleagues Cushman and Offenberger, Stone too will submit in 2009. An aspect of her research was recently published as “Flight to South Africa: The Tale of Two Ships” in *Holocaust Persecution: Responses and Consequences*, edited by Nancy Rupprecht and Wendy Koenig (Cambridge Scholarly Press, spring 2009). A former teacher and a life-long educator, she presented to future teachers at the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State University: “We Are Here: Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust,” “Jewish Women in the Resistance” and “Taking Flight: German Jewish Refugees in South Africa.”





GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Center's tree 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.

GIFTS THAT BENEFIT GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS



Jessica Antoline, Waitman Beorn, Claims Conference Fellow
Joanna Sliwa, and Irene Ann Resenly

Support for doctoral fellowships and research is our highest priority. As the only institution committed to training Ph.D. students in Holocaust history and genocide studies, the Strassler Center depends upon dedicated fellowship funds to attract outstanding candidates. In this 10th anniversary year of doctoral study, we recognize most especially donors who have contributed fellowship support. Such friends include the children of Ralph and Shirley Rose—Billy, David, Dianne, Linda, and Lisa—who this year funded a fellowship in their parents' memory. They join Howard Fromson, William Hausrath, Al Tapper, and Sidney and Rosalie Rose, whose endowed contributions will benefit generations of students. Permanent gifts provided in past years by David and Marlene Persky and Glenn and Leslie Parish also continue to subsidize our students in perpetuity.

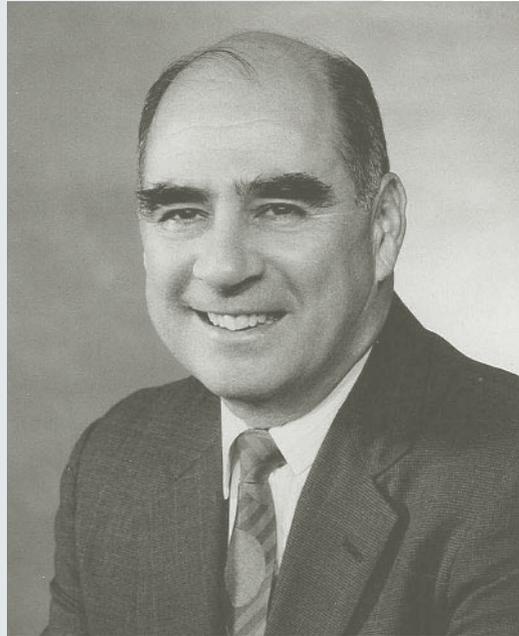
Five-year fellowships have been equally crucial to building a dynamic and engaged coterie of students. Robert Weil, the family of Nathan Hevrony, and the Buster Foundation all graciously pledged such gifts, which have been instrumental in fostering the robust graduate student culture we enjoy. Rebecca Colin Seaman, Ph.D. '89 (through the Simon and Eve Colin Foundation) gifted a timely pledge allowing us to admit an additional student for the fall 2009 class. Recognizing the value of such a student community,

Buster Foundation Trustee Robin Moss posed a welcome question in late 2007: *What more can I do for the students?* No sooner asked than answered... please help to fund a first-ever International Graduate Students' Conference. Robin's pledge of support, together with funds from the Louis and Ann Kulin Endowed Fund, encouraged the students to undertake the four-day event.

Gifts, large and small, contribute in myriad ways to the growth and development of the Center's Ph.D. program. Members of the Tobak family, for instance, help maintain the Henry Tobak Graduate Student offices. Diana Bartley furnishes our growing library with titles she identifies and purchases and upon which student scholarship depends. Recently graduated student Josh Franklin '06, MA '07 was motivated to contribute general funds knowing the value of the projects pursued by his former professors and student colleagues. We thank them and all those listed here.



The Rose Library addition, foreground



DONOR PROFILE

Friend and supporter David Strassler was guest of honor for lunch with current doctoral students in October 2008. The pretext for the occasion was to celebrate a milestone birthday, but the real reason was to give David the opportunity to take stock of the success his many contributions have engendered. The Strassler Center, which David helped to establish through his energetic advocacy and keen interest, also celebrated a landmark event this year: the 10th anniversary of doctoral education.

The Center's initial Ph.D. students entered in the academic year 1998–1999 following the appointment of the first Strassler Professor. Together with founding Director and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork, the two faculty members began to train and mentor the first class of students engaged in doctoral study of Holocaust history. A stream of talented and committed students followed the original students, now well-launched in the field as scholar educators.

From the outset David shared Debórah's vision for the Strassler Center: to serve as the model for doctoral education and the cutting-edge academic institution in the emerging field of Holocaust history and genocide studies. As students described their scholarly projects to David during their luncheon together, it was apparent that the Center's intellectual promise has been fulfilled. Students in the doctoral program hail from three continents and are engaged in original research on a range of subjects. The significance of the program he helped found emerged with great clarity when he returned for the opening of the first-ever International Graduate Students' Conference. A landmark event in the field, the conference attracted an outstanding international coterie of doctoral students and established scholars.

If David is proud of the Center's growth, we at the Center know a *mensch* when we see one. According to the *Joys of Yiddish*: "someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character. The key to being 'a real mensch' is nothing less than character, rectitude, dignity, a sense of what is right, responsible, decorous"—in short, David Strassler. —*Mary Jane Rein*



DONOR HONOR ROLL

The following list includes outright gifts, pledges, and pledge payments made between 1 June 2008 and 31 May 2009.

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**“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

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clarku.edu/departments/holocaust

CENTER IN THE MAIL

“I was casually going through the year-end activities report and lo and behold...me!!! I even had to put my glasses on. I really had no idea, so you can imagine the surprise. Thank you for that. P.S. Maybe I can get a few copies for my kids so they will know how terrific I am.” — Al Tapper

“I was fortunate to have been in the audience at your recent presentation at Chapman. I’ve now had the chance to read your book — I found it to be moving and very informative. Thank you so much for bringing the story of Mariánka Zadikow to us. What a tribute to the human spirit, and what a fitting memorial to the souls who were lost. I will be looking out for your new book on refugees — it is of interest to our family since my mother left Breslau, Germany, for Manila in 1938. And that, like all of these tales, is a story in itself.”

— Leonie Kramer, Laguna Beach, Calif., to Professor Debórah Dwork

“I saw the movie *Valkyrie* and it brought my memory back to the Prague/Terezín trip, and though the experience has never left me, this movie certainly moved it back to the center of my consciousness... it was truly one of the most enriching classes I have ever taken.” — Pam Taylor '08 to Tatyana Macaulay, program director

“Above all, the outstanding work of the historian Taner Akçam has put the realities of the Armenian genocide, and their deep deposits in the Turkish state, irreversibly on the map of modern scholarship.”

— Perry Anderson, “After Kemal,” *London Review of Books*, 25 September 2008

“As a parent of a Clark alumnus ('04), I have followed the growth of the Strassler Center with interest. Kudos for both the scholarship and the breadth of the Center’s research.” — Roxanne Kupfer

“I send a note of thanks for all of your work regarding the Holocaust and its victims. While I am not Jewish but an American Christian of European descent... any time I find someone as dedicated as you are to the work of remembering the Holocaust and the struggle of the Jews, I [take the time] to say thank you. P.S. I recently saw you in a documentary concerning Eichmann on The History Channel. I only wish they would have interviewed you more for the program.”

— Mark Austen to Professor Debórah Dwork

“The recent [international graduate students'] conference was a wonderful success. Everything worked well — the grad students performed at a very high standard, the conference was beautifully organized, the hospitality was excellent. I hope you are taking a lot of satisfaction, well-deserved, for all that was accomplished at the conference. Its impact will be immense and long-lasting.” — Professor John K. Roth,

founding director, The Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, Claremont McKenna College

“Congratulations on the coming conference. It is a very impressive program and lineup of scholars.”

— Bill Shulman, president, Association of Holocaust Organizations

“Thank you all for an outstanding conference and learning experience at the First International Graduate Students' Conference for Holocaust and Genocide Studies held at Clark University from 26 – 29 April 2009. The high level of the presentations, the diversity of research topics and methodological approaches, made for three days of extraordinary learning and I know that I, and all the conference participants, were left inspired and rejuvenated both in terms of our own projects and our enthusiasm for this area of research in general.” — Avril Alba, Director

of Education, Sydney Jewish Museum, Australia



"I just wanted to extend my gratitude to you and the other graduate students at Clark. From the standpoint of an observer, the conference was perfectly organized and executed. I left Worcester feeling invigorated to continue doing the work that we will do." — Irene Ann Resenly, Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

"I just wanted to thank you for your presentations today. I believe the kids learned much and that they will be ready for their visit to the Museum of Jewish Heritage — a Living Memorial to the Holocaust. I think they will have a successful trip and much to discuss afterwards." — Terry Elio, teacher from the Kennedy Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA, to doctoral student Joanna Sliwa

SAVE THESE DATES

Please join us for these upcoming public programs. For further information call 508-793-8897 or visit the online calendar of events, www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust/events/index.cfm.

SEPTEMBER 10

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

A New Book: Flight from the Reich

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

OCTOBER 7

4:00 pm, Rose Library

Especially for Students Lecture: The Iraqi High Tribunal—

Lessons from the Trial of Saddam Hussein

Eric Blinderman, International Litigation Counsel, Proskauer Rose LLP, Former Associate General Counsel of the Coalition Provisional Authority, Former Chief Legal Counsel and Associate Deputy to the Regime Crimes Liaison's Office

OCTOBER 19

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

Pius XII and the Holocaust: Some Reassessments

Saul Friedlander, Pulitzer Prize recipient, 1939 Club Chair in
Holocaust Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

NOVEMBER 18

4:00 pm, Rose Library

The Legacies of the Holocaust and European Identity after 1989

Cecilie Stokholm Banke, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute
for International Studies, Fulbright Fellow at the Strassler Center
This lecture is supported by the Louis and Ann Kulin Fund.

FEBRUARY 17

4:00 pm, Rose Library

Genocide and Refugees in Africa

Sasha Chanoff, Founder and Director, Mapendo International:
A lifeline for refugees

APRIL 9

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

*Workshop: The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research:
Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions*

Keynote address (to be announced)

This event is supported by the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair, the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, and NAASR (National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont MA).

APRIL 15

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

*Discovering Holocaust: Native American/Jewish Identity
in the 21st Century*

David Treuer, Ph.D., Native Ojibwe speaker and author,
most recently, of *The Translation of Dr. Apelles* (2006).
This lecture is supported by the Asher Family Fund.



“Silent gratitude isn’t much use to anyone,” the early 20th century doyenne of culture Gertrude Stein is credited with saying. In this, as in so much else, Stein was on the mark. Announcing my gratitude in print, I thank Center staff for their truly indefatigable work this year. In addition to their tasks, which increase in volume and complexity as the Center grows, each shouldered additional portfolios to support the students who divided themselves into committees (Departments) to mount the International Graduate Students’ Conference. Administrative assistant Margaret Hillard, who sets a superior standard of efficiency and calm dispatch, mentored the students’ Department of Information. Bookkeeper Ghi Vaughn, whose budgets are utterly reliable and crystal clear, mentored both the Department of Finance and the Department for International Visitors; the forms she devised now serve as a model for other units on campus. Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, Program Director, whose top-notch events are legendary, outdid herself mentoring the Departments of Hospitality and, with Hillard, Information. Librarian Betty Jean Perkins and library volunteer Marjorie Glazer continue to bring professional order to a superb book collection. And Executive Director Mary Jane Rein, fulltime as of 1 April 2008, wrapped her arms around the whole of the Center operations, mentored the Department of Communication, and served as editor-in-chief of this *Report*.

I am blessed—as is the Center—with my colleagues Taner Akçam, Thomas Kühne, Olga Litvak, Shelly Tenenbaum, and Jaan Valsiner. Profoundly appreciative of their scholarship and diverse interests that take the Center in bold and fresh directions, I recognize and enjoy my good fortune. I thank, too, my many Clark colleagues—especially Ken MacLean, Srini Sitaraman, and Valerie Sperling—who mentor Center doctoral students and lend their energies to the undergraduate program. I am equally indebted to colleagues at other universities who serve as advisors to our doctoral students: Frank Bialystok; Kate Brown; Maria Bucur; Eric Gordy; Barbara Harff; Radu Ioanid; Richard Menkis; Avi Patt; Antony Polonsky; Sharon Portnoff; Milton Shain. And the generous souls to whom our students turn for informal help or advice: Yehuda Bauer; Michael Berenbaum; Atina Grossman; Peter Hayes; Larry Langer; Robert Jan van Pelt. Giving the gift of time and expertise, each enriched the intellectual universe of the student, and thus enriched the entire community. Finally, I take this opportunity to remember scholar and human rights activist Alison Des Forges, whose work remains a brilliant model of engagement by committed intellectuals in the prevention of contemporary mass violence, and whose life was cut short much too early.

I am grateful to Associate Provost Nancy Budwig and to Provost David Angel for their support of the Center and its mission. They both appreciate and demand excellence, which empowers us to move the Center towards new aspirations.

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—*Debórah Dwork*

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