

Ackerman  
Center for Holocaust Studies  
at The University of Texas at Dallas





*The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*  
Berlin, Germany

Peter Eisenman and Buro Happold arranged 2,711 stone slabs into a 200,000 square foot grid to memorialize the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The slabs are ordered but stand at various heights, creating a disorienting effect.



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Center for Holocaust Studies  
at The University of Texas at Dallas

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. NILS ROEMER  
STAN AND BARBARA  
RABIN PROFESSOR IN  
HOLOCAUST STUDIES



The Holocaust is a watershed moment in human history that left us with a lasting legacy and a collective duty to remember. The absences of the once vibrant Jewish communities continue to haunt our world while the Third Reich's ideologies continue to foster inequality, divisiveness and hatred in our societies. Around us, radical ideologies and politics gather momentum and threaten to unravel the fabric of our communities. Thus, teaching the Holocaust is never just about our past but ultimately about our future. Remembering for the future through commemoration and education are as vital to our communities as the diverse academic centers that promote a culture of critical exploration, discussion and debate.

As the director of the Ackerman Center, I take great pride in our work and accomplishments this year. Our mission of “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future” is woven into every project we undertake. This year’s annual newsletter captures many of the milestones we reached. Our public events and lectures reached wider audiences than ever before. We set new records of classes and students we taught and celebrated the completion of several ground-breaking dissertations. Our faculty and students have published books, chapters, articles and have traveled the nation and the globe to present unique research in the field of Holocaust Studies.

Ultimately, it is not the number of attendees, listeners or readers that measure our work. Rather, it is the efforts that we, together, continue to put forth to keep learning from our past, our ongoing dedication to the lessons and legacies of the Holocaust, and our continuous effort toward creating a better future. The Ackerman Center exists thanks to the wisdom, devotion and generosity of friends and supporters like you who have helped to build the Center into a space which will continue to grow in the years to come.

Sincerely,

*Nils Roemer*



## ABOUT THE CENTER

Founded over 30 years ago, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies has grown into a distinguished and unique academic center that provides an in-depth view of the Holocaust within a dedicated facility. The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies has three full-time endowed professors, one full-time research assistant professor and two visiting assistant professors. As a distinguished academic and publicly-engaged center, we offer a unique multi-faceted learning environment supported by a research library housing the prestigious Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection. At the Center, we singularly focus on the study of the Holocaust and its legacies, providing an educational, engaging and transformative experience. Our diverse students play vital roles as educators, professionals and leaders in America and around the world.

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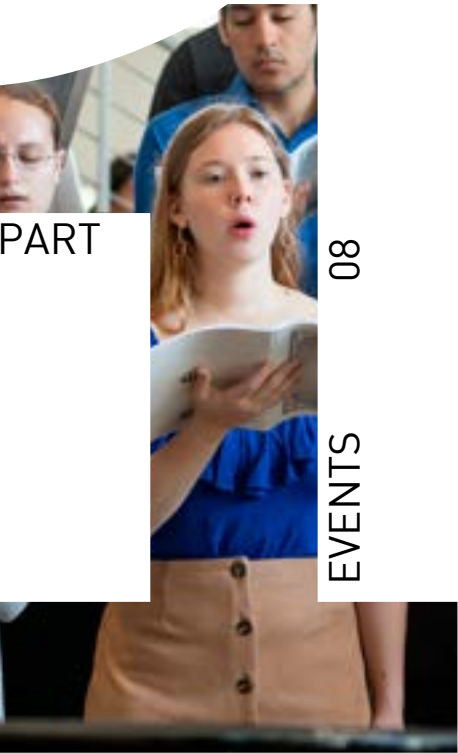
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*\*of blessed memory*



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*The Tower of Faces*  
**United States Holocaust Memorial  
Museum, Washington, D.C.**

Spanning three stories, the memorial displays around 1,000 photos of Jewish families who lived in Eišiškės, Lithuania before Nazi killing units slaughtered thousands of them in September, 1941. The tower is dedicated to their memory.

# EVENTS





## OPERATION FINALE

AUGUST 22, 2018

The Ackerman Center and MGM films co-hosted an advanced screening of the film *Operation Finale* at the Alamo Drafthouse Theater in Richardson. The film follows the true story of the Mossad, the Israeli secret service, on their mission to capture and extract Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann from Argentina in 1961 and examines the unnerving interactions between the agents and Eichmann during his captivity.

Many community members, UT Dallas faculty and students attended the showing, which quickly sold out. Following the screening, Dr. Roemer hosted a lively discussion where many audience members asked questions relating to the film's historical background.

## UNDERSTANDING & MISUNDERSTANDING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

The passing of Poland's 2018 "Holocaust Laws" saw a virulent resurgence of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial in the country. These laws allowed the government to penalize individuals who attributed Holocaust-related crimes to Poland. The resounding backlash from prominent leaders prompted them to retract portions of the law in June of 2018, primarily those regarding prosecution, fines and imprisonment. Polish politicians were concerned that the controversy would damage international relationships, undermine the Polish reputation in the U.S. and threaten their economic stability.

To discuss the controversial legislation, Professor Jadwiga Biskupska (right), an expert in Eastern European history, presented her lecture, "Understanding and Misunderstanding: Poland's Holocaust Laws," which addressed factors surrounding the implementation of the laws and the reactions of the international community. She expressed that the laws came about in response to the perception of Poland as a perpetrator-nation of the Holocaust without recognizing Polish victims, many of whom perished at Auschwitz. Members of the international community expressed outrage at what they felt was Poland's attempt to censor its culpability in the Holocaust and the possible ramifications of such legislation. Dr. Biskupska argued that although Poland pushed to control access to research material on the Holocaust, their aim was to establish a post-war Polish identity that Soviet censorship had prevented during the communist occupation.

Dr. Jadwiga Biskupska earned her PhD in Eastern European history from Yale University and specializes in the history of war and violence in central Europe. She is an assistant professor of history at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.







## EINSPRUCH LECTURE SERIES

OCTOBER 28-29, 2018

The Burton C. Einspruch Lecture Series welcomed one of our largest audiences since its inception in 2002. Each year, the Ackerman Center hosts this prestigious two-day event, featuring lectures from eminent scholars and prominent figures in the field of Holocaust Studies. This year, we welcomed Dr. Peter Hayes, a renowned Holocaust scholar and author.

In his opening lecture, “Why? Explaining the Holocaust,” Dr. Hayes discussed his teaching experience and how it inspired him to write his latest book, citing the most common “why” questions students asked, such as, “Why the Jews?” and “Why the Germans?” Through answering these questions, he provided a brief overview of the Holocaust and the conditions that enabled the genocide.

Following his lecture, there was a meet and greet reception and book signing, where attendees could meet Dr. Hayes, ask questions, provide feedback and purchase personalized copies of his book.

Dr. Hayes’s second lecture, “German Corporate Complicity in the Holocaust,” examined the results of his research into the unethical conduct of large corporations in Germany that profited from the exploitation and murder of Jews during the Holocaust. He discovered that two of the most popular and well-known corporations, Degussa and IG Farben, had government contracts for the production of Zyklon B, which were primarily used in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Dr. Hayes is the Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies at Northwestern University. He currently serves as Chair of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

*Opposite Page: Above Left: Dr. Peter Hayes delivers his lecture, “Why? Explaining the Holocaust.” Above Middle: Dr. Hayes signs copies of his book following the lecture. Above Right: The audience included members of the public as well as local high school students. Right: Dr. Roemer stands beside Dr. Burton C. Einspruch.*







## #WEREMEMBER

JANUARY 27, 2019

Every January 27th, people around the world gather in remembrance of the Holocaust on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This year, the Ackerman Center honored the victims with presentations featuring Dr. Nils Roemer, the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor of Holocaust Studies, Dr. Mary Catherine Mueller, a UT Dallas alumna and lecturer at Southern Methodist University, and Dr. Sarah R. Valente, then a PhD candidate conducting original research on the Holocaust in Brazil (above right).

These presentations addressed media portrayals of camp liberations and the victims at the end of WWII. All three noted that the media had a tendency to recognize that there were victims of a horrible atrocity but referred to them by their nationalities rather than as Jewish.

Dr. Roemer highlighted publications from the United States, raising questions on why the U. S. chose to enter the war so late and how it viewed the Japanese versus the Germans. He mentioned famous publications, many which reported the victims as Polish or Czech rather than Jewish. This trend continued in the displacement camps, which indicates a lack of understanding and recognition for the uniqueness of Jewish victims. He ended his talk with the famous Anne Frank quote: “All people are really good at heart,” provoking the audience to question the nature of humanity, good and evil.

Dr. Mueller discussed local media responses in the *Dallas Morning News*, specifically focusing on the shift in rhetoric when survivor testimonies about their experiences and numbers started appearing by 1945. She noted that the tone changes from a celebration of a military victory to a revelation of the Nazi death machine and questions over what truly happened.

Dr. Valente examined the media responses in Brazil, who entered the war later due to longstanding trade relations with Germany. Like Dr. Roemer, she noted the focus on victims’ nationalities rather than their Jewish identities. She went through several years of different publications, noting that the Brazilian media reported the Nazis experimenting with killing techniques as early as 1942.

This year’s International Holocaust Remembrance Day coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. However, this declaration is not a law and cannot be enforced as there is no universal definition for the term “genocide.” Therefore, it is a global responsibility to stand up in defense of human rights.

After the talks, the audience engaged in a Q&A and participated alongside representatives from the Jewish campus organization Hillel International (left) in the social media campaign “#WeRemember” featured on the Ackerman Center’s Facebook page to honor the memory of those who perished and those who survived.





## INTIMATE VIOLENCE

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, civilians in Polish and Ukrainian communities humiliated, tortured and murdered their Jewish neighbors. Often, townspeople would gather to witness, participate and celebrate the slaughter of those who had lived so close to them for generations. As this particular type of savagery increased in the early twentieth century, the term “pogrom” emerged to describe a pattern of mass bloodshed that originated toward the end of the nineteenth century. Dr. Jeffrey Kopstein (below right), Chair of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine, visited UT Dallas to share his archival research findings on pogroms in his lecture, “Intimate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust.”

Dr. Kopstein examined pogroms in places where the Germans had passed through or were approaching. He uses the term “intimate violence” to describe the phenomenon of neighborly relations that quickly dissolved into violent festival-like spectacles.

He claims that the dominant history of the Holocaust focuses primarily on concentration camps and argues that the reality for Eastern European Jewry was very different. Many of them never experienced deportation or camps but were instead victims of either pogroms or mobile killing squads. In his statistical analysis, he noted a pattern of violence that

occurred wherever the dominant majority perceived Jews as politically or socially threatening and argued that competing nationalism and anti-Semitism contributed to the pogroms.

Eastern Europe has a long history of violence against Jews. Although civilians carried out these atrocities, authorities did not prevent them. Many records documenting the fate of Eastern European Jewry are unexamined, but recent scholarly research has widened the scope to unearth the missing pieces from the history of the Holocaust.



*Opposite Page: A synagogue in Tarnopol, Poland, 1903. Forty-percent of the town's population was Jewish. Over a thousand were massacred in the July 1941 pogrom.*



# ANNUAL PHILOSOPHERS AND RACE WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 10, 2019

By the 19th century, scientists purported racial constructions that divided humanity based on arbitrary factors, establishing a hierarchy that dehumanized people of color. Despite its influence on the contemporary world, studies on racial ideology have only just emerged in contemporary philosophical studies. Each year, the Ackerman Center hosts an annual Philosophers and Race Workshop with experts from UT Dallas faculty and visiting scholars who present and discuss their groundbreaking research. This year marks the third workshop, "The Universal Idea of Race, Semiotic Commerce and Vernacular Occurrences," featuring opening remarks by Dr. Nils Roemer, Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor at The University of Texas at Dallas.

UT Dallas PhD candidate Pedro Corona Gonzalez (bottom) presented his lecture, "Manufacturing Race: Racial Technologies in Mexico, Building Blocks of a Modern Nation-State," in which he analyzed racial classification systems and how evolving racial ideologies and technologies impacted the formation of Mexico. Using *casta* paintings, he illustrated how colonial Spain's classification of racial hierarchy transformed into a preliminary system of social class.

Dr. Yael Siman of Iberoamericana University (top) discussed Holocaust survivors and their



*PhD student Amal Shafek attends the Race Workshop with audience members on February 10, 2019 at UT Dallas. The Workshop provides insight into the growing field of racial ideologies.*

experiences integrating into Mexican society amidst existing racial perceptions in her presentation, "Race, *Mestizaje*, and Antisemitism: Political and Social Experiences of Holocaust Survivors in Mexico in the 1930s and 1940s." Having overcome the existence of "foreigners in a foreign land," the Jewish presence merged with the Mexican one, ensuring that the legacy of the Holocaust remained in the country. As a result, the portrait of Mexican society grew more complex.

Dr. Whitney Stewart, assistant professor of history at UT Dallas, shifted the focus to the United States' racializing practices of the plantation era in her lecture, "Racializing the American Home: Home-Making on James Madison's Montpelier Plantation." By analyzing Madison's Virginia plantation's architectural structure, she demonstrated how slave owners racialized "home." Home, she explained, provides safety and belonging.

Madison built his plantation to hide slaves from view thereby excluding them from the household and the home. On the other hand, that seclusion granted slaves the ability to resist their subjugation through participating in activities they wanted to keep secret from their enslavers.

The event spanned two days. The first day gave the public the opportunity to listen and learn from scholars as well as ask questions. On day two, the scholars gathered for a private forum where they exchanged views and learned from each other's research.

Nazis racialized Jews, systematically dehumanizing them and reducing them to vermin worthy of extermination. Therefore, understanding race and racial theories remains essential to Holocaust Studies. The Ackerman Center plans to continue holding workshops on race and racism in the hopes of further expanding Holocaust scholarship.



*Ignacio María Barreda's Las Castas Mexicanas depicts a hierarchy where lighter-skinned people have a higher status. Casta paintings show colonial Spain's influence on Mexican social class structure.*



## CONFLICTING REALITIES: THE 49TH ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE ON THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES

MARCH 2-4, 2019

*This year's conference marked the 75th anniversary of the deportation of the Hungarian Jews, the quickest mass deportation during the Holocaust. Hindsight tells us that the final years of the war determined the Allies imminent victory, yet perceptions of the time were more complex. Although the threat seemed to diminish for Hungarian Jews by early 1944, Hitler deported hundreds of thousands of them to their death within mere months.*

The final years of World War II created an atmosphere of conflicting realities, as victims and perpetrators saw both liberation and annihilation. At times, the future of the Reich and individual fates seemed uncertain and murky. At this year's Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (ASC), students and scholars examined these divergent and complex viewpoints through interdisciplinary approaches. Nearly sixty presenters from around the world explored aspects of the Holocaust that do not necessarily appear in the traditional narrative.

This year marked the 49th anniversary of the Conference and the second anniversary of its

home at The University of Texas at Dallas. In 1970, Rev. Hubert Locke\* and Dr. Franklin Littell\* founded the conference to bring people from many faiths and backgrounds together to study the Holocaust and uphold its legacy.

Throughout the years, the conference traveled across the United States and abroad to promote interdisciplinary scholarship. In 2018, UT Dallas and the Ackerman Center became the permanent home for this annual conference. Following the opening dinner, the conference spanned two days featuring two keynote speakers, scholarly presentations, a public lecture event and roundtable discussions.

*\*of blessed memory*



*Right: Professor Martin Rumscheidt (left) from the Atlantic School of Theology, attends the Annual Scholars' Conference opening dinner alongside Dr. Zev Garbner, Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies and Philosophy from Los Angeles Valley College.*



*Left: Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (right) with Miriam Lewis Barnett (center) and her now former student, Dr. Sarah R. Valente. Her book, My Journey Home: Life After the Holocaust, details her life in the aftermath of the Holocaust.*



On Sunday, Dr. Mark Roseman delivered the keynote address “Diverse Vantage Points: Rescue and Resistance in History and Memory – a Microstudy.” He argued that the existing concept of the “rescuer” is too narrow. Through his study of diaries, survivor testimonies, Gestapo reports and correspondences, he reconsidered the way we view rescuers.

During lunch, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies, shared her personal story as a Holocaust survivor. It gave conference attendees a chance to ask her questions and express how deeply moved they were by her story.

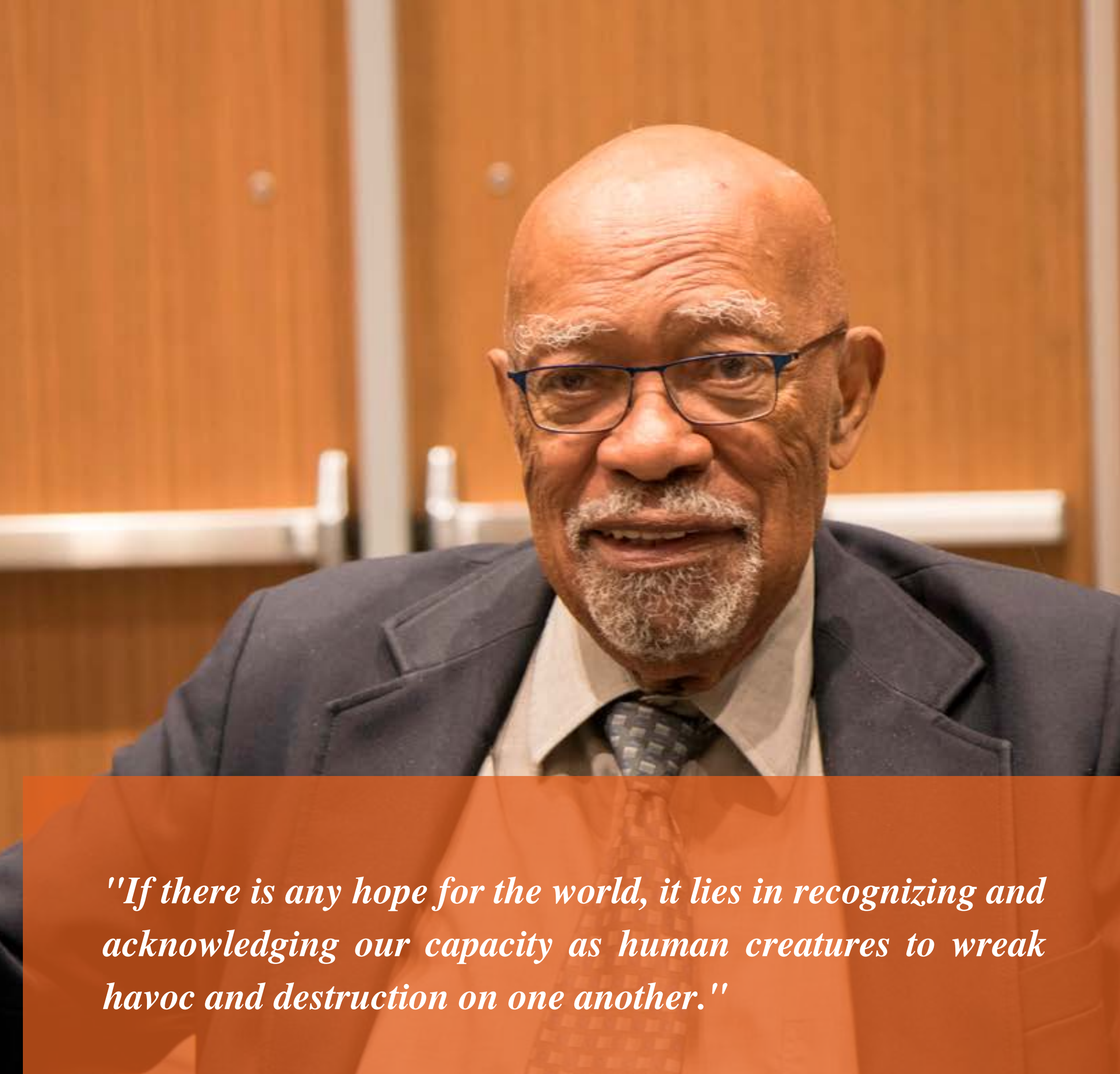
The day concluded with the public lecture event, “The Texas Liberator: Witness to the Holocaust.” This special event was sponsored by the Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Annual Scholars' Conference Endowment.

Monday's keynote speaker, Dr. Adán B. F. Garcia traveled to Dallas from Mexico City's Museo Memoria y Tolerancia and delivered an inspiring presentation called, “MMyT, Education, Memory and Human Rights,” which outlined the museum's multi-faceted approach to public education and raising awareness of the Holocaust, genocide, discrimination and human rights in order to boost tolerance.



The conference's concluding Eternal Flame Award ceremony honored Dr. Ozsváth. The flame on the award (right) is made up of the Hebrew letters “זכור” (zayin-khaf-vav-resch), spelling zakhor, which means “remember.” Despite the freezing weather, the conference succeeded in committing itself to the meaning of The Eternal Flame, which is an ever-enduring fire that calls us to remember the six million who perished. Though we must face the sad reality that survivors are leaving us, the ASC, through its participants, supporters, speakers and listeners, protects that flame so that the memory of the Holocaust never extinguishes.





*"If there is any hope for the world, it lies in recognizing and acknowledging our capacity as human creatures to wreak havoc and destruction on one another."*

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF REVEREND LOCKE

1934 – 2018

This year's conference was dedicated to the life and legacy of Rev. Hubert G. Locke, co-founder of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, who passed away in June 2018. A man of faith, compassion and vision, Rev. Locke devoted his life to civil rights, justice and serving his community. We were honored to share the experience of the 2018 conference with him before he left us. He expressed his joy that UT Dallas and the Ackerman Center had become the permanent home for the conference.

He particularly enjoyed the diversity of UT Dallas and the conference participants at the 48th Annual Conference in March 2018. After witnessing a panel that united Middle Eastern, Asian and Latin American young scholars, he joked that Dr. Roemer should encourage further diversity.



Locke was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 30, 1934. He led a remarkable life, both intellectually and as a leader in the community. During the twelve years he served as reverend of the Church of Christ of Conant Gardens in Detroit, he earned his master's degree in comparative literature from the University of Michigan in 1961. In 1962, he put off his doctoral pursuits and became a leader in the civil rights movement. His book, *The Detroit Riot of 1967* (1969), documents what his eulogy describes as "the worst civil disorder in twentieth-century urban America."

Devoted to studies on the Third Reich and the churches, he founded the ASC alongside the late Dr. Franklin Littell. His publications on the subject earned him international prestige as a Holocaust scholar. Throughout his life, he continued to research, write, speak publicly and teach. He never lost his dedication to bettering society. Although he never formally completed his doctoral studies, he received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Bridgeport, Richard Stockton College, Payne Theological Seminary of Wilberforce University, University of Akron, and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Words cannot fully express the impact his endeavors made on Holocaust scholarship and the world he worked to improve. His legacy and contribution to humanity will continue to inspire others to persevere in achieving the efforts of creating a more humane and compassionate world.



*"For the past forty-eight years, Hubert Locke has been our point on the compass."*

Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell  
Past President of the Annual Scholars' Conference  
Professor Emeritus, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Stockton University

*"What struck me about Professor Locke was his sheer presence—the look of genuine loving kindness in his eyes, the genuine joy in his smile, and the welcoming warmth of his handshake. Of course, I was taken by his eloquence, his insight, and his impassioned testimony. I don't think I have ever known a person more profoundly humble or more humbly wise. But, like so many, I am most grateful for Hubert's devoted friendship. Like so many, I truly miss him. Zichrono livrachá—may his memory be a blessing"*

Dr. David Patterson  
Hillel Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies  
The University of Texas at Dallas



*"The Annual Scholars' Conference was blessed by his vision and the depth of his humanity."*

Dr. Hank Knight  
Director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Keene State College

*"His work on Christian-Jewish relations and of the German Church struggle and the Holocaust was not only pioneering but inspiring."*

Dr. Michael Berenbaum  
Director of Sigi Ziering Institute Professor of Jewish Studies  
The American Jewish University

*From Left to Right: Dr. Richard Libowitz, Rev. Locke, Dr. Ozsváth, Dr. Littell, Dr. Knight and Dr. Patterson at the 48th Annual Scholars' Conference.*



## THE TEXAS LIBERATOR

MARCH 3, 2019

Throughout its history, the Annual Scholars' Conference has invited distinguished individuals to discuss topics related to the Holocaust and human rights. The 49th anniversary marked the first Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Annual Scholars' Conference Endowment Lecture, and featured Dr. Aliza Wong, who spoke about her work on the Texas Liberator Project.

Through her work with U.S. middle and high schools, Dr. Wong felt increasingly concerned that public school curriculums touched upon the history of the Holocaust as an afterthought, excluding the role of the United States completely in mandatory U.S. history courses. She also noticed that any elaboration on the subject occurred in non-mandatory European history courses, contextualizing it as a solely European problem rather than a global one. She feels that the upcoming generation of Americans has frighteningly little knowledge of WWII and the Holocaust and began the Project to address these issues.

The Texas Liberator Project aims to include the little-known experiences of U.S. WWII veterans in the narrative of the Holocaust to challenge the traditional perspective that many Americans have toward the "Greatest Generation." These testimonies provide audiences an opportunity to come face-to-face with Texas liberators so that they might

empathize and see veterans as humans rather than idolized legends.

Through her creative process, Dr. Wong had to address the challenge of engaging younger audiences with diverse learning styles. With the help of contributors from various disciplines, Wong created a user-friendly online platform with an interactive component to encourage engagement in Holocaust education.

Dr. Wong serves as Associate Dean of the Honors College and Director of European Studies at Texas Tech University.



*Right: Mitchell L. (center) and Miriam Lewis Barnett (left) with Dr. Ozsváth. Mr. and Mrs. Barnett established the Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Annual Scholars' Conference Endowment, which sponsors a lecture event at the Annual Scholars' Conference.*

*This year's speaker, Dr. Wong (below left) presented, "The Texas Liberator: Witness to the Holocaust" at the 49th Annual Scholars' Conference.*



*Above: The book, The Texas Liberators: Veteran Narratives from World War II, compiles the veterans' testimonies. Currently, it is being distributed to public schools throughout Texas. The project has also produced an app, website and exhibit. The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission sponsors the project in collaboration with Texas Tech University.*



# HOLOCAUST CANTATA

MARCH 8, 2019

The Arapaho United Methodist Church in Richardson hosted “Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps.” The event was a collaboration between the Ackerman Center, Dr. Jonathan Palant, Director of Choral Activities at UT Dallas, and the School of Arts and Humanities. It provided a rare opportunity to engage the public in a dialogue about the history and legacy of the Holocaust through an interdisciplinary fusion of the humanities.

Comprised of written testimonies, songs and sheet music that concentration camp prisoners wrote, the Cantata integrated melody with the recitation of eyewitness accounts. Following the opening performances, Dr. Nils Roemer spoke on the historical context for the compositions and testimonies.

Three different choirs delivered hauntingly beautiful refrains, with several featuring vocal and instrumental soloists that left listeners in awe: UT Dallas University Choir and Chamber Singers, conducted by Dr. Palant; Garland High School’s A Capella choirs, directed by Riley McKay Worthen; and Arapaho United Methodist Church’s Chancel Choir, directed by Amanda Hollis. Between the musical performances, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and Professor Frederick Turner gave emphatic readings of camp prisoner testaments.

To accompany the event, the Ackerman Center curated a special exhibit that highlighted 18 pivotal moments in the history of the Holocaust.

Dr. Palant’s closing remarks challenged the audience to remember those who suffered during the Holocaust and the responsibility of every individual to speak out against hatred and discrimination.

**For information about our upcoming events, please visit our website: [utdallas.edu/ackerman/events](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman/events)**

*Choir singers perform "Holocaust Cantata," featuring vocal and instrumental artists as well as readings by Dr. Ozsváth and Professor Turner.*

*A band begins to play, next to the entrance of the camp: it plays Rosamunda, the well-known sentimental song, and this seems so strange to us that we look sniggering at each other; we feel a shadow of relief . . . But the band, on finishing Rosamunda, continues to play other marches, one after the other, and suddenly the squads of our comrades appear, returning from work. They walk in columns of five with a strange, unnatural hard gait, like stiff puppets made of jointless bones; but they walk . . . in time to the band.*

**—Primo Levi, Survival in Auschwitz**



# COMMEMORATING IN VERSE

MAY 2, 2019

*Here in this carload  
I am Eve  
With my son Abel  
If you see my older boy  
Cain son of Adam  
Tell him that I*

**Dan Pagis**, "Written in Pencil in the Sealed Freightcar"

Faculty, students, staff and community members gathered to read poems such as "Written in Pencil in the Sealed Freightcar" on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Every year, the Ackerman Center hosts a public gathering to recite poetry in a multitude of languages in the entrance hall of the Edith O'Donnell Arts & Technology Building.

In addition to the readings, LabSynthE presented their project, "Syntonic Refuge," a knitted shawl meant for two, ending in gloves that read the wearers' heart rates. While wearing it, the pair touch hands and read each other's pulses. PhD student Amal Shafek and PhD candidate Leticia Ferreira de Souza pressed their palms together beneath the shawl while reading Paul Celan's poem "Death Fugue" in Arabic and Portuguese simultaneously. As they read, the sensors detected the changes

in their heart rates, communicating their emotional reaction to the words, the connection forged between them and the languages as they overlapped. "It really felt like we were completing each other's sentences even though they were in different languages," said Shafek.

The event included an excerpt from Donald McCullough's "Holocaust Cantata," conducted by Dr. Jonathan Palant, featuring Dallas Chamber Singers and University Choir, solos from sopranos McKenzie Flynn, Anna Rasmussen and baritone William Hughes, as well as pianist Artem Arutyunyan and cellist Joseph Kuipers. Additionally, Professor Frederick Turner and Dr. Zsuzsunna Ozsváth read testimonies from Holocaust survivors who endured the horrors from the camps.



Left: Shafek and Ferreira read "Death Fugue" in Arabic and Portuguese while wearing a "Syntonic Refuge" shawl. Below: Cellist Joseph Kuipers performs part of "Holocaust Cantata" alongside the choirs and fellow musicians, including William Hughes (bottom left). Below Left: Professor Turner recites a poem for the event as does Pedro Corona Gonzalez (bottom right).





# REPRESENTING THE HOLOCAUST IN EDUCATION

JUNE 26-27, 2019

*Teaching people to respond to the Holocaust rather than react to it—to act responsibly in the face of knowledge about the calamity that overran European Jewry—is the primary task of Holocaust education. It is an attempt to undertake what American educators have little experience in undertaking and what some would insist is alien to the educational enterprise. Essentially, it is to see Holocaust education as an exercise in moral education.*

—Rev. Hubert G. Locke\*

*Below: Teachers participating in the 2019 Holocaust Teacher Workshop. The two-day seminar provided teachers with 16 hours of continuing education credit in addition to providing numerous teaching resources to implement in the classroom.*



*\*of blessed memory*

History designed for mass consumption tends to impact public memory. Likewise, representations in popular culture affect how people remember the Holocaust. The push to present Holocaust history in a digestible format for contemporary audiences who might lack in-depth knowledge or interest in the subject has altered how it is portrayed and taught. To open a dialogue on these issues, the Ackerman Center invites middle and high school teachers to participate in its annual two-day workshop on teaching the Holocaust in the classroom.

Dr. Debra Pfister, Research Assistant Professor in Holocaust Studies, coordinates these workshops. The 2019 workshop addressed how major historical turning points influence or change the way we perceive the Holocaust and its representations. The distinguished scholars provided insight through their lectures and group activities. Dr. Pfister held a special session to provide teachers with free lesson plans, educational resources and tools for instructor use in the classroom.

Among the speakers, Nikolaus Wachsmann, Professor in Modern European History at the University of London, discussed the way historical documents, oral testimonies from victims, and eye witness accounts from perpetrators shape the way history presents the Nazi concentration camps. He elaborates on this subject in his book *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*.

From our own faculty, Drs. David Patterson and Nils Roemer discussed their perspectives on the four iconic photographs taken by the Auschwitz Sonderkommando, a

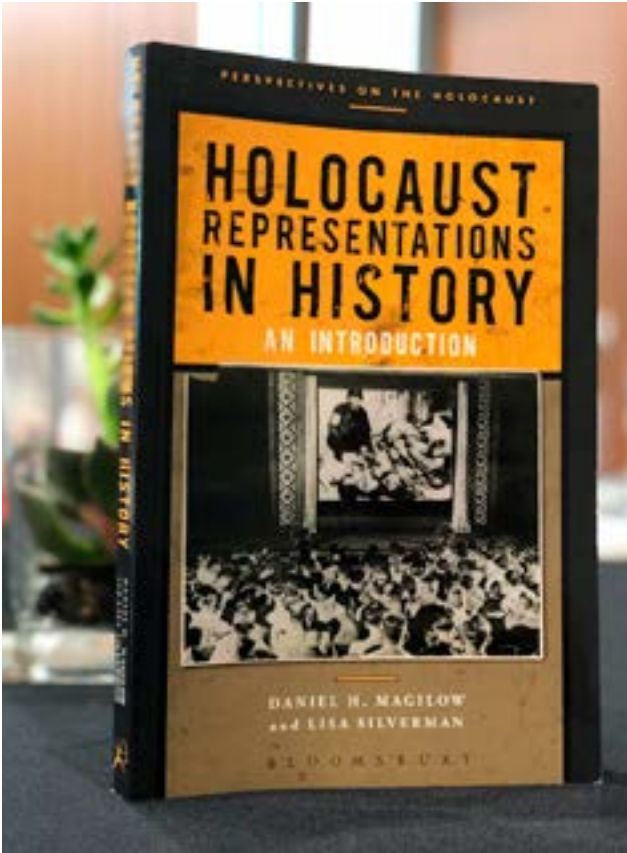
group of isolated prisoners that Nazis forced to work in the gas chambers and crematoria. These are the only known photos of their kind. Dr. Patterson emphasized how the photos illustrate the great peril that the photographers faced. Dr. Roemer focused on the photos’ context, the photographer’s identity and motivation and the narrative the viewer constructs through interpretation.

The workshop also provided attendees with a copy of Professors Lisa Silverman and Daniel Magilow’s book, *Holocaust Representations in History: An Introduction*. Both professors gave multiple lectures on Holocaust representation. Dr. Magilow, associate professor of German at The University of Tennessee, discussed the function of language, highlighting the importance of analyzing the original context of Holocaust documents and how memory has evolved. Dr. Silverman, associate professor in Holocaust history and representation at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, examined media portrayals of the Holocaust, including the revolutionary mini-series, *Holocaust*, and Art Spiegelman’s graphic novel, *Maus*. She addressed potential strengths and pitfalls related to portrayals that blur the lines between fact and fiction.

As a special appearance, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth spoke about her experiences captured in her latest memoir, *My Journey Home: Life After the Holocaust*. The audience then participated in a personal Q&A session with her. Following her talk, Dr. Ozsváth signed copies of her book.

*(continued on next page)*





*Dr. Silverman (top left) delivers her lecture. She and Dr. Magilow authored Holocaust Representations in History.*

*Attendees (right) received free copies of the book.*

For years, Texas teachers had no obligation to teach the Holocaust. The annual workshop emphasizes the importance of providing students with Holocaust education. This year, the seminar coincided with an important milestone in Texas legislation. As of June 2019, Texas has passed the “Holocaust Remembrance Week” bill, which makes teaching the Holocaust mandatory throughout the Texas public school system. Through the establishment of this law, educators must provide grades K–12 age-appropriate lessons that convey the importance of the Holocaust.



*Top: Dr. Patterson (left) delivers his lecture on the four Sonderkommando photos. The photographer captured this rare photograph (right) from inside a gas chamber. At times, people crop the window frame of the chamber out, changing the content of the photo and altering its representation and interpretation.*

*Bottom: Dr. Ozsváth signs copies of her latest memoir, My Journey Home: Life after the Holocaust.*



*El Potencial Perdido*  
*(The Lost Potential)*  
**Museo Memoria y Tolerancia,**  
**Mexico City**

Known as the "heart of the museum," the giant floating monument "El Potencial Perdido" features 20,000 crystal "teardrops" in its interior, which symbolize and commemorate the children who were killed in genocides. The structure's roof is a glass ceiling which allows in sunlight. Depending on the time of day and position of the visitor, the sculpture produces different perspectives and designs.

# FACULTY



## HONORING A LEGEND

The Eternal Flame Award is bestowed upon individuals whose words and actions have endeavored to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and its victims and to promote a better future for humanity. Among previous recipients are Elie Wiesel\*, Franklin Littell\*, Marcia Sachs Littell, Elisabeth Maxwell\*, Yehuda Baur, Gideon Hausner\*, Emil Fackenheim\*, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan and Hubert Locke.\* Last year, the award went to Rev. Dr. Henry F. Knight and our own endowed professors, David Patterson and Nils Roemer.

This year, the conference presented the award to Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth for pioneering the study of the Holocaust in Texas and advocating diversity, tolerance and kindness in her teaching. Last year, the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement awarded her the Inclusive Excellence and Intercultural Teaching Award at the 9th Annual Diversity Awards Ceremony. A Holocaust survivor and founder and director of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, Dr. Ozsváth is a renowned historian and literary scholar, a pianist, translator, writer and public speaker.

*Photo: Dr. Ozsváth after receiving the Eternal Flame Award during the closing award ceremony for the 49th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.*



Students adore Dr. Ozsváth, known to her friends as Zsuzsi, because she delivers energetic and passionate lectures and invests personally in her students' successes, providing them unlimited encouragement and support. Dr. Dennis Kratz, formerly Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and two of Dr. Ozsváth's longtime students spoke about the strong bonds she has with her students and the profound impact and inspiration she provides them to continue learning and growing as scholars. Upon receiving the award, she humbly remarked that she did not do anything difficult or special to earn it. She said she was lucky to do what she loved every day. Those who know our beloved Zsuzsi believe that there was no one more deserving of such an honor.



*Top: Dr. Dennis Kratz and his wife, Dr. Abby Kratz, associate provost at UT Dallas, celebrate with Dr. Ozsváth following the award ceremony.*

*Bottom Left: J. E. Wolfson, Education Coordinator at the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission was one of the two students who spoke about Dr. Ozsváth. Dr. Sarah R. Valente was the other.*

*Bottom Right: Dr. Ozsváth shares a smile just after receiving the award.*



An excerpt from  
**MY JOURNEY HOME**  
 LIFE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST  
 by Zsuzsanna Ozsváth



In 1979, a year after I stopped teaching at Bishop, I became a lecturer in the School of Arts and Humanities, teaching two German classes at UTD. It took some additional years before I started to publish and would begin to teach a variety of courses in the fields of literature and the history of ideas, concentrating on the Holocaust. I became an assistant professor in the 1980s and later was promoted to tenured associate professor, then finally to full professor. For the past twenty-five years, I have also been one of three professors in UTD's Holocaust Studies Program, a field and a program now recognized not only in Dallas but all over the country and other parts of the world.

Whenever I talk about my professional life, I must also mention Pista. Throughout our marriage he always encouraged me. He took pride in my piano playing at the beginning of our relationship and when I played in concerts. He was proud of me when I received my PhD and when I became a professor at UTD. Also, he carefully read each of my publications and enjoyed discussing my ideas with me. He took great pleasure in reading my colleague Fred Turner's poetry and our translations of Goethe and the great Hungarian poets: Radnóti, Atilla József, and others. It was a pure delight to talk with him about the literary, aesthetic, historical or political questions which have intensely occupied me my whole life, especially those regarding poetry and the Holocaust. His logical mind and tremendous insight helped me gain a deeper understanding of all these issues.

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*Continued on next page*



*Opposite: Dr. Ozsváth with her husband, Dr. Istvan "Pista" Ozsváth, in the early 1950s.*

*Above: Pista taking pictures of the Ozsváths' backyard in Dallas in the late 1970s. The couple moved into the house in 1969. Pista, himself, had planted all the trees on the property.*



As for his professional life, Pista was fulfilled and happy through all the years of his tenure at UTD, where he taught theoretical physics and mathematics. As I understand it, he did his research on relativity theory and Riemannian geometry. Of course, I have no idea what these words mean, but I learned from a number of other theoretical physicists that Pista's findings were of great importance in this field. Yet however great his results, he was never complacent with his own research: he constantly studied, reread, and recalculated the analyses that he made with Engelbert and wrote more about them in new articles and in new books. He also hoped to discover ever newer and more important results. He did this not because he was vain and wanted more fame or success—in fact, he had plenty of both—but because he wanted to resolve all those questions in the field that still needed to be answered. In the final analysis, it was the search for these answers that excited him and kept him in a constant state of wonder and anticipation. It was the way he spent his life from the day I first met him to the day he died.

But what will happen now to his search for a “beautiful” solution? Who will solve the problems he regarded as urgent? Has science moved in other directions? And does the urge to find answers for them drive somebody else? Does this drive live in Peter as vividly as it did in Pista, despite the fact that Peter asks very different questions and is in a very different field of research? I think it does. The academic beginnings of father and son were dissimilar, though. All through his youth, Pista never really believed that he had the time and the

freedom to become a “real” mathematician. Coming from Kölesd, searching for answers, and after a while giving up his desire to concentrate on mathematics at Eötvös Loránt University in Budapest and later at the Hamburg Observatory, he began to believe that he must give up his dream, thinking that he could not concentrate on the field in which he was most interested. But working with Engelbert, their successful collaboration, and our move to the United States seemed to straighten out these problems. Now he was well-known in his field: he had the freedom to work on whatever he wanted and study in the area of his choice. So he had lived his last two years in Hamburg and then several decades in Texas with great satisfaction, involved in exciting research, enjoying his freedom, loving his children, and being aware of his luck and our happiness.



There can be no doubt that in every aspect of our lives, we were enormously lucky. Besides our professional satisfaction, our marriage did not change: it remained as romantic and as beautiful as in the beginning. We loved one another as much and more than we had during our first summer in 1949, Dizzy in his presence, melting in his arms, I was delighted by what he said, by his warmth, his way of seeing the world in a funny-grotesque light, and his limitless love and commitment to me and our children. In addition, I was happy about the previously unimaginable professional fulfillment in our lives, never forgetting where we had come from. In this way, while always looking toward the future for all of us, I never forgot my concern for my brother Iván and the living memory of my parents and their suffering; at this point in my life, I just tried to live with these memories. At the same time, I was sure that I would never again be afraid of the ideology of the state: whatever we had to go through, we would never again have to live as we had under the German and Russian occupations of Hungary.

*Opposite Page: Pista holding a miniature chess set in Hamburg, Germany in the 1960s.*

*Top: Dr. Ozsváth with Pista's friend and Hans Emil Schuster at the Hamburg Observatory in Germany in the 1960s. At the time, Pista was still a graduate student.*

*Bottom: Dr. Ozsváth most likely in Hungary prior to 1960.*





# DR. ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH

LEAH AND PAUL LEWIS CHAIR IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES  
DIRECTOR OF THE HOLOCAUST STUDIES PROGRAM



*“When I start my class, there are very few people who understand what [the Holocaust] was. Each time it is a huge deal for me to teach it and to see how they learn it and become aware.”*

Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth holds the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies and is the founder and director of the Holocaust Studies Program at the Ackerman Center of Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas. She is the recipient of the Fullbright Award, the IREX Award, UT Dallas Office of Diversity and Community Engagement’s Diversity Award and, most recently, the Eternal Flame Award.

A Holocaust survivor and internationally recognized scholar, she has written extensively on writers and poets of the Holocaust, aesthetic and ethical issues in French, German, and Hungarian literature, as well as the relationship between art and totalitarian ideology. Her book *In the Footsteps of Orpheus: The Life and Times of Miklós Radnóti, 1909-1944* (1999), explores the biography of Hungarian poet Radnóti and the political circumstances in Hungary during the interwar period. Her latest book, *My Journey Home: Life After the Holocaust* (2019), serves as a sequel to her first memoir, *When the Danube Ran Red* (2014), and tells the story of her life following her traumatic childhood experiences during the Holocaust. She is also the Associate Editor and East European Editor of the journal, *Common Knowledge* (Duke University).

Dr. Ozsváth is also an award-winning translator. She has translated three volumes of poetry alongside fellow UT Dallas Professor Fred Turner. Both received the Milán Füst Prize of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, one of the most prestigious literary awards. They released their most recent translation, *The Golden Goblet: Selected Poems by Johanna Wolfgang von Goethe*, in May of 2019.

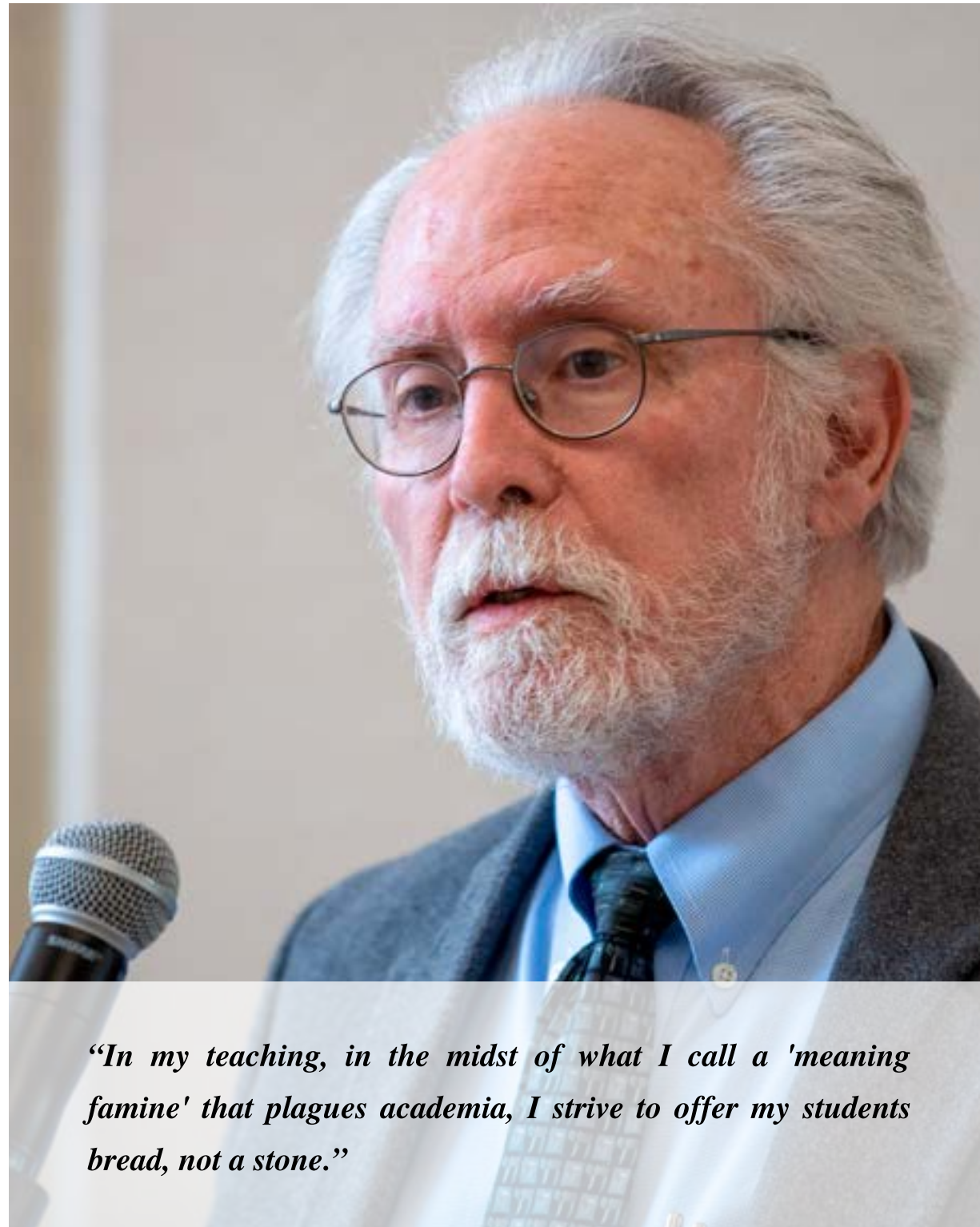
Besides writing, translating and editing, Dr. Ozsváth was invited to speak at a number of local schools and community events during the course of the academic year. In the fall of 2018, she led the Q&A session for the film, *The Last Suit*, at the 22nd Annual Jewish Film Festival in Dallas. On campus, she spoke with student ambassadors at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center. In the spring of 2019, she delivered a presentation as part of the annual Sunday Lecture Series event alongside fellow Ackerman Center Professors Roemer and Patterson. She also was a guest speaker at the North Texas Jewish Studies Conference, where she presented her talk, “I am Afraid: Children of the Holocaust.” At the American Airlines headquarters in Ft. Worth, she shared her story as a Holocaust survivor. Additionally, she was invited to present at several events hosted by local churches. Among them was “Holocaust Cantata,” where she participated in the performance together with Professor Turner. She also spoke at the Church of the Holy Communion as part of their Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) ceremony.

Alongside her speaking engagements and writing, she taught several courses for undergraduates and graduates. In the fall of 2018, she taught a graduate course on the literature, history and culture of the Weimar Republic and also co-taught an undergraduate course with Dr. Roemer on the same subject. In the spring of 2019, she once again joined Drs. Roemer and Patterson in teaching an undergraduate class on the Holocaust. In addition, she taught the graduate course, “Literature and the Holocaust,” one of the core courses required to earn a Certificate in Holocaust Studies.



# DR. DAVID PATTERSON

HILLEL A. FEINBERG CHAIR IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES



*“In my teaching, in the midst of what I call a ‘meaning famine’ that plagues academia, I strive to offer my students bread, not a stone.”*

Ackerman Center professor Dr. David Patterson holds the Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies in the School of Arts and Humanities at UT Dallas. He has won over 20 awards, including the ALA Award for Outstanding Reference Source 2003 for Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature, the National Jewish Book Award, the Hadassah Myrtle Wreath Award and the Eternal Flame Award. Most recently, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Academic Board of Advisors for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy (ISGAP) and the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

Dr. Patterson has also authored over 35 books and 200 articles. His latest publication *The Holocaust and the Nonrepresentable: Literary and Photographic Transcendence* (2018) explores how literature, photography and inscriptions express meaning and reveal what is hidden or intangible in the context of the Holocaust. He also edited *Legacy of an Impassioned Plea: Franklin H. Littell’s The Crucifixion of the Jews* (2018), which includes contributions from Ackerman students and faculty.

In 2019, he served as a guest speaker for Congregation Nishmat Am’s Scholar in Residence Shabbat (evening) event. He also traveled to England as an invited lecturer for the annual ISGAP seminar on Anti-Semitism at Oxford University.

Dr. Patterson is a triple alum from the University of Oregon having earned his BA in Philosophy (1972), and his MA (1976) and PhD (1978) in Comparative Literature. He continues to include both literature and philosophy in his classes

In the 2018 fall semester, he taught a graduate course on the Holocaust, employing memoirs, historical and philosophical texts. In the 2019 spring semester, he taught a doctoral-level course on anti-Semitism and two undergraduate courses: “Holocaust Memoirs” and “The Holocaust.” “Holocaust Memoirs” explored Holocaust memoirs as a genre of Holocaust literature through an interdisciplinary approach involving literature, history, philosophy and theology. He co-taught “The Holocaust” alongside Dr. Ozsváth and Dr. Roemer, providing students with a multi-faceted approach to the Holocaust and its aftermath.

For the fall of 2019, he will be teaching a doctoral seminar on Jewish literature from its origins throughout history to modern times.



## DR. NILS ROEMER

STAN AND BARBARA RABIN PROFESSOR OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES  
DIRECTOR OF THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES



*“My teaching aims to not only impart knowledge but to empower students to develop their critical and interpretive skills. I encourage students to further their curiosity, critical abilities, and imagination in the study of the Holocaust.”*

Dr. Nils Roemer is the director of the Ackerman Center and the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies. A recipient of the Eternal Flame Award, Dr. Roemer continues to serve as a leader in Holocaust scholarship and the humanities. He is currently a board member of the Leo Baeck Institute, a member of the American Association of Jewish Studies, and an editorial board member for the Journal of Modern Jewish Studies.

He has authored a plethora of articles and books. His publication, *German City, Jewish Memory: The Story of Worms* (2010), explores the development of urban Jewish identity through Jewish memory, writings, museums and memorials in Worms, Germany. Additionally, he guest-edited a special theme issue on painful memories for *Athenaeum Review*, a journal published by the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History and the School of Arts and Humanities.

In the fall of 2018, Dr. Roemer visited Williams High School in Plano as a guest-educator on the Holocaust. He also traveled to Israel to serve as a keynote speaker for the International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes Conference. Additionally, he hosted an event alongside students and faculty for the collaborative project, “Confronting the Past,” which featured presentations, exhibitions, performance art and technology to explore Dallas’ history of hatred and intolerance and promote diversity.

In the spring of 2019, he lead a Q&A discussion following the screening of the film *Denial* at Richland College as part of their International Film Series. He also served as a guest speaker at “Beyond Religious Boundaries,” an event honoring Holocaust Remembrance Day at the US Army Corps of Engineers in Ft. Worth. In March, he was special guest-speaker at “Holocaust Cantata,” where he discussed the history of the Holocaust and the significance behind the eighteen-paneled exhibit that several of his students created under his supervision.

In May, Gateway Church invited him to interview special guest speaker, Holocaust survivor and human rights activist Dr. Irene Butter about her experience as a child during the Holocaust. In the summer of 2019, he traveled to Germany as an invited speaker at the conference, Two Centuries of Wissenschaft des Judentums.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Roemer engages in several collaborative student research projects. Within the classroom, he strives to incorporate a multi-dimensional approach that allows students to utilize their individual skills in creative and collaborative ways.

In the fall of 2018, he co-taught a course on the understudied topic of German “enemy aliens” in internee and POW camps in Texas alongside Dr. Monica Rankin, the director of the UT Dallas Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives (CUSLAI). The course brought new discoveries and produced an original exhibit and several presentations. Students from the class presented their research at events on campus, including an academic conference, and five of them presented at a conference in Oaxaca, Mexico. The following spring semester, Dr. Roemer created a new undergraduate class, “Holocaust and Human Rights in Latin America.” Recent graduate Dr. Sarah R. Valente and PhD candidate Pedro Gonzalez Corona co-lectured the course under his supervision. Both specialize in the history of the Holocaust in Latin America.

For the Fall 2019 semester, Dr. Valente and Gonzalez Corona will join him again in co-teaching an undergraduate course on the Holocaust. Additionally, he will teach a doctoral level course on the major scholarly sources on the Holocaust.



## DR. DEBRA PFISTER

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES  
LECTURER AT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES



Dr. Pfister is a Research Assistant Professor for Holocaust Studies at the School of Arts and Humanities. She currently serves as an organizer and advisor to the UT Dallas Jewish Student Organization and is part of the UT Dallas Communications Committee.

A triple alum from UT Dallas, Dr. Pfister specializes in literature and Holocaust Studies. Her ongoing research includes literature and philosophy of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the history of antisemitism and the Holocaust, Jewish art and Holocaust representation in film, art and literature. She is currently pursuing research on the Holocaust in film as well as furthering her research on the Hungarian artist, Imre Ámos. Her research on Ámos has been included in *Comparative Hungarian Cultural Studies* (Purdue), a compiled volume of important essays written by scholars around the world on subjects related to Hungarian culture.

Dr. Pfister's interests are not limited to research and writing. In addition to her written work, she has also helped curate exhibits at The Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance. She has also lectured at the museum as well as on campus.

Each summer, she organizes and hosts a workshop for teachers to help instill middle and high school educators with the knowledge and tools required to teach the Holocaust in the classroom.

This annual multi-day workshop is provided to area teachers free of charge thanks to a generous gift from the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation. These workshops are immensely popular and feature renowned Holocaust scholars as well as lectures from the Ackerman Center's endowed professors and graduate student presentations.

*Read about the workshop on page 34.*

As a dedicated educator herself, Dr. Pfister has taught many undergraduate classes on the Holocaust and related topics. Many students who have taken her classes have been inspired to further their study of the Holocaust at the graduate level. This year, she taught a course dedicated to the history and legacy of the Holocaust as well as another that explored its representations. In addition, she has taught courses on more specific topics related to the Holocaust such as "Operation Barbarosa" and "Looting, the Holocaust and the Third Reich."

Since the beginning of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, Dr. Pfister's classes have grown in both size and popularity. This academic year, she taught a record number of students in the largest undergraduate class to date. Her Fall 2019 class on representations of war and liberation was split into two sections to accommodate the students, and each is filled to maximum capacity.



## DEPORTATIONS & THE HOLOCAUST

ANNUAL SPRING SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES  
MARCH 31 - APRIL 14, 2019

In the context of Holocaust history, we associate the word "deportation" with the mass expulsion of Jews from occupied territories to the death camps following the Wannsee Conference in 1942. However, the Nazis resorted to deportations as an answer to the "Jewish Question" in as early as 1938, following the infamous nationwide assault on German Jews during Kristallnacht, where tens of thousands of Jewish men were rounded up and deported to concentration camps. In the months following their invasion of Poland in 1939, Nazis forced Jews to leave their homes and move into overcrowded ghettos. In some form or another, deportation existed throughout the Holocaust as a means to gather and liquidate the Jews from the world.

Deportations during the Holocaust served as the topic for this year's Sunday Lecture Series, an annual event where the Ackerman Center's endowed professors present on subjects related to Holocaust scholarship.

Dr. Patterson (below) kicked off the first Sunday of the series with "Death and Ghetto Death." Using his research on ghetto diaries, he argued that the Nazis' systematic destruction of Jews began in the ghettos and not the camps. According to the Jewish faith, specific rites and rituals comfort the soul of the deceased and enable their transition from this world to the next. By preventing Jews from adhering to religious laws governing the treatment of their deceased, they not only robbed them of the fundamental human right to a dignified death but death itself.



In her lecture, "When We Remember: The Murder of the Hungarian Jews, March 19, 1944 – May 1945," Dr. Ozsváth (right) discussed the implementation of the Final Solution in Hungary. The measures the Nazis took to eradicate Jews from other occupied nations occurred at a rapidly accelerated pace in Hungary. Within three months, authorities forced an estimated 800,000 Jews to endure anti-Jewish legislation and ghettoization and deported approximately 440,000 to Auschwitz, where they were gassed upon arrival.



Dr. Roemer (above) concluded the series with his presentation, "Deportation and Liberation in the Final Year of the Third Reich," which outlined the last year of the war and emphasized its significance. He highlighted the "Wannsee Protocol," a Nazi document that lists the population of Jews in both their occupied territories and those they planned to take over, and the events following the Nazis' fatal defeat at Stalingrad to argue that no matter the

outcome of the war, their primary goal was eliminating the Jews.

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the lecture series. It welcomed the largest audience since its inception in 2014, demonstrating the Ackerman Center's community outreach and dedication to teaching the Holocaust and upholding its legacy for future generations.



*The Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust  
Library Collection Reading Room*  
**The Ackerman Center of Holocaust  
Studies at The University of Texas at  
Dallas.**

Through epitaphs, inscriptions, diaries  
or memoirs, humanity has always  
depended on the ultimate visual  
abstraction to record memories: the  
written word. Libraries safeguard the  
expressions of victims, the research of  
scholars and artifacts for posterity. The  
Ackerman Center's library contains a  
growing collection of core texts and  
videos on a range of Holocaust-related  
topics available for students, faculty  
and members of the public.

# STUDENTS





## CHANGING THE FUTURE: MILESTONES

The Ackerman Center dedicates itself to developing scholarly professionals who uphold our mission, "Teaching the past, Changing the future." This year, three students earned their PhDs in Humanities, History of Ideas, five graduated with their MAs and several earned a Certificate in Holocaust Studies.

In the fall of 2018, we celebrated Dr. Shamim Hunt (above left) who successfully defended her dissertation, "Erich Fromm's View of the Self and Its Influences." Dr. Hunt drew from hundreds of Fromm's unpublished works, including letters to various philosophers and hand-written notes.

In the spring of 2019, former Belofsky Fellow Dr. Scott Swartsfager (bottom right) was successful in defending his dissertation, "Promoting Normal: Jewish Culture in Occupied Amsterdam." It discusses the



history and experiences of Jewish communities in Amsterdam before and during the German occupation between 1940-1945.

In the summer of 2019, former Belofsky Fellow Dr. Sarah R. Valente (top right) earned her PhD. Her dissertation, "Holocaust Aftermath and Memory in Brazil," contributes to a new emerging field in Holocaust studies. It identifies post-Holocaust, Jewish narratives and examines eight memoirs written in Portuguese that were published in Brazil. It sheds new light on Jewish narratives written for Brazilian audiences that are unfamiliar with Holocaust history and analyzes the questions of memory and legacy of its aftermath.



*Top Left: Dr. Swartsfager during his hooding. Top Right: Dr. Valente and her committee chair, Dr. Ozsváth. Above Left: Dr. Valente and her committee take a celebratory photo following her defense. Above Right: Dr. Swartsfager and his committee are all smiles after his defense.*

PhD Candidate Pedro Gonzalez Corona (right) is expected to earn his PhD in the fall of 2019. His dissertation, "Genealogy of Racism: Technological Devices of Race and their Transformation in Modern Mexico," argues that the framers of modern Mexico constructed it as a nation-state using racializing technologies. He examines the transformation of racial ideologies in Mexico using visual art and text that depict social classifications based on race to demonstrate the prominent role these technologies played in Mexican history. He also investigates the development of the Mexican brand of Antisemitism.





"OUR PATHS...



ARE NOT  
MAPPED...



*Congrats Graduates!*

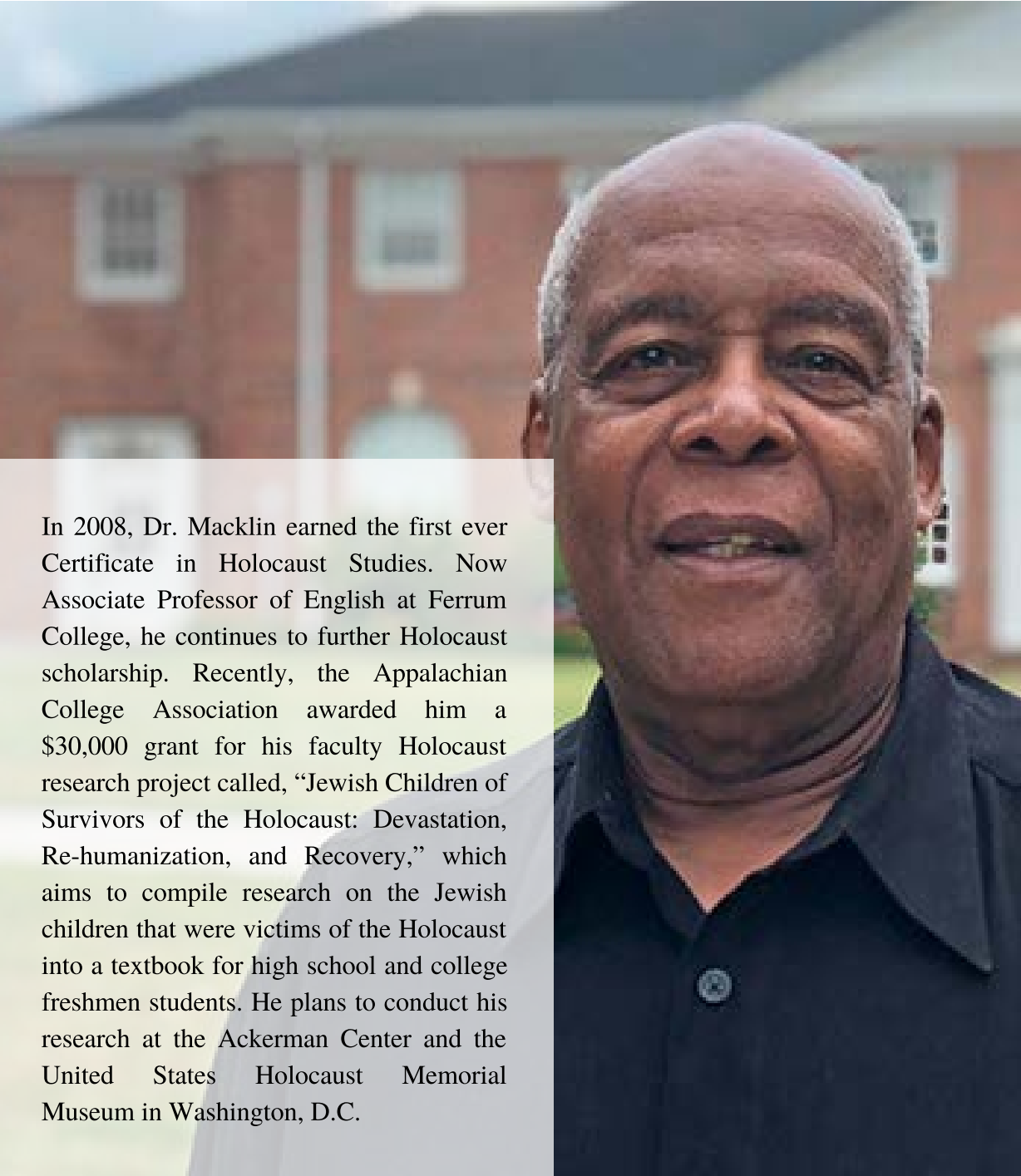
—Quote by Priya Ardis.

...THEY ARE MADE"



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Since the Center’s opening, we continue to watch our student body grow. We are equally proud of all of our graduates, many who have gone on to earn their PhDs. Our diverse alumni now occupy positions in a variety of fields, incorporating the history of the Holocaust into a range of interdisciplinary projects. This issue’s spotlight highlights Dr. Melvin Macklin, PhD’08, and Dr. Mary Catherine Mueller, PhD’18.



In 2008, Dr. Macklin earned the first ever Certificate in Holocaust Studies. Now Associate Professor of English at Ferrum College, he continues to further Holocaust scholarship. Recently, the Appalachian College Association awarded him a \$30,000 grant for his faculty Holocaust research project called, “Jewish Children of Survivors of the Holocaust: Devastation, Re-humanization, and Recovery,” which aims to compile research on the Jewish children that were victims of the Holocaust into a textbook for high school and college freshmen students. He plans to conduct his research at the Ackerman Center and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.



One of our most recent graduates, Dr. Mueller, a full-time lecturer at Southern Methodist University, now teaches courses on English and Holocaust literature. In the summer of 2019, she served as a scholar-in-residence for the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy’s summer program at the University of Oxford’s St. John’s College in England.





## FUNDING THE FUTURE

Thanks to generous support from our donors, the Ackerman Center awards students through three fellowship opportunities. All three fellowships grant annual stipends to graduate students. The Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies and The Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies is awarded to outstanding graduate students focused in Holocaust Studies. The Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies is awarded to graduate students who serve as research assistants at the Ackerman Center.

The current Einspruch Fellow is Sarah Snyder (pictured with Dr. Einspruch), a PhD Candidate in the History of Ideas (HUHI), who researches the 1961 Eichmann trial and the Concentration Camp Trials of 1945. Current Jacobs Fellow Philip Barber, a PhD student in HUHI, studies the role of public education

in Holocaust representation and the history of anti-Semitism in the Christian Church

The current Belofsky Fellows are PhD students Amal Shafek, Christina Stanford and Sarah J. Hashmi. Shafek is a lead contributor for the Ackerman Center's "Digital Studies" projects, which analyze raw data on deportations during WWII and use visual analysis to unlock new perspectives on Holocaust history. Stanford researches the history "The Kahn Collection," a collection of books the Kahn family donated to the McDermott Library's Special Collections. She also researches the family's history in connection to the Holocaust. Hashmi conducts research for "Voiceless Victims," a sub-project of the "Digital Studies" project, alongside Shafek, which focuses on Sephardic Jews from North Africa. She also researches the history of hatred and racism in Dallas.

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

Our students are the most vital part of the Ackerman Center and Holocaust Studies Program. Possessing numerous skills from their diverse backgrounds and disciplines, they collaborate on unique projects and contribute to ground-breaking research in the field of Holocaust Studies. Their accomplishments are recognized internationally through their publications, presentations and research endeavors. They serve as ambassadors for human rights and tolerance and remain devoted to carrying on the legacy of the Holocaust.



*PhD students and Belofsky Fellows, Chrissy Stanford (left) and Sarah J. Hashmi attend and participate in the #WeRemember event for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2019.*





## DR. SHAMIM HUNT

PHD'18 | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF THE ISTVAN AND ZSUZANNA  
OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND

Dr. Shamim Hunt has been a devoted student of philosophy. Prior to her graduate career at UT Dallas, she attended St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where she earned her BA in Philosophy in 2002. She also earned two MA from UT Dallas: one in the History of Ideas (2005) and the other in Philosophy (2009). In the fall of 2018, she earned her PhD in the History of Ideas program after defending her dissertation on Erich Fromm, a Jewish psychologist and sociologist who fled from Nazi Germany in 1934, following Hitler's rise to power.

Dr. Hunt's areas of specialization include ancient and modern philosophy, social and political philosophy, existentialism and the philosophy of self.

In June of 2018, she traveled to Berlin, Germany and presented her paper, "Erich Fromm's Theory of Love as Universal Consciousness," at the 3rd International Erich Fromm Seminar for Docs and Post Docs at the Erich Fromm Study Center at the International Psychoanalytic University. The following month, she presented "Self-Love as Universal Humanism in Erich Fromm" at the 4th Annual Texas Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium held at SMU.

Currently, Dr. Hunt teaches courses on philosophy at El Centro College in Dallas as well as The University of North Texas in Denton. She also teaches world literature at UT Dallas.

Keep up with our students and  
their achievements through the  
Ackerman Center's website!

[utdallas.edu/ackerman/student-highlights](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman/student-highlights)

## DR. SCOTT SWARTSFAGER

PHD'19 | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
FORMER BELOFSKY FELLOW

Dr. Scott Swartsfager, a retired Air Force Major, earned his PhD in the History of Ideas program in the spring of 2019 after defending his dissertation, "Promoting Normal: Jewish Culture in Occupied Amsterdam." He specializes in intellectual history and the history of the Holocaust in the Netherlands, focusing on the Jewish councils of the Netherlands and France between 1930-1945. Central to his research is the significant number of Jews who perished in the Netherlands compared to France. He addresses this issue by examining specific factors, such as Nazi policies, Jewish responses to Nazi aggression, ghettoization, and deportation.

Dr. Swartsfager conducted his research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Leo Baeck Institute and the National Archives in Amsterdam. In the spring of 2019, he presented his paper, "Occupied Amsterdam: Jewish Culture in the Melee," at the 49th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

Dr. Swartsfager has had extensive experience teaching early modern and modern European history, the Holocaust and world history as an Assistant Professor at the US Air Force Academy as well as an Associate Professor at Colorado State University, The University of Maryland, and Allan Hancock College.







## DR. SARAH R. VALENTE

PHD'19 | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
FORMER BELOFSKY FELLOW  
FRIEND OF THE WALD PROFESSORSHIP

As of the summer of 2019, Dr. Sarah R. Valente is a UT Dallas triple alum. She completed her undergraduate degree in Literary Studies and went on to pursue an MA in Humanities - Studies in Literature. She earned her PhD in the History of Ideas after defending her dissertation, "Holocaust Aftermath and Memory in Brazil."

Aside from being one of our most recent doctoral graduates and a former Belofsky Fellow, Dr. Valente has had a number of accomplishments this past academic year. In the fall of 2018, her chapter "Two Generations After" was published in *Legacy of an Impassioned Plea: Franklin H. Littell's The Crucifixion of the Jews*. The book was co-edited by Ackerman Center professor, Dr. Patterson and the former president of the

the Annual Scholars' Conference, Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell. In early 2019, she served as a guest speaker for the Ackerman Center's International Holocaust Remembrance Day event, #WeRemember, where she presented "Camps Liberation Media Coverage in Brazil," and as the moderator for "A Reading and Conversation with Brazilian Poet Salgado Maranhão and his translator Alexis Levitin," an event hosted by UT Dallas' Center for Translation Studies.

She also traveled to California in the spring of 2019 to present two papers: "Modern Jewish Art in Twentieth-Century Brazil" at the Latin American Jewish Studies Association Conference on the Jewish Americas: Beyond Borders at the University of California, Los Angeles and "Post-World War II Brazil: A New Homeland for Jews and Nazis?" at the In Global Transit: Forced Migration of Jews and Other Refugees (1940s – 1960s) Conference, at the University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to her dissertation work, Dr. Valente co-taught a history course alongside Pedro Gonzalez Corona on the Holocaust and human rights in the spring of 2019. The undergraduate class was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Roemer. Currently, she is continuing her research on the collaborative project, "Digital Studies of the Holocaust Project," focusing on marginal Jewish victims from countries such as Italy, Portugal and Brazil. She also pursues research on human rights violations that Jews experienced under the military dictatorships in Latin America, starting with Brazil from 1964 to 1985. Dr. Valente will return as a visiting assistant professor in the upcoming Fall 2019 semester.

## PEDRO GONZALEZ CORONA

PHD CANDIDATE | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF THE MAX AND FLORENCE WOLENS  
RESEARCH FUND  
FRIEND OF THE WALD PROFESSORSHIP

Before beginning his doctoral studies at UT Dallas, PhD Candidate Pedro Gonzalez Corona earned a BS in Political Science and Public Administration from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in 1997 and a MA of Liberal Studies in Human Rights from Southern Methodist University in 2012. He is expected to defend his dissertation, "Genealogy of Racism: Technological Devices of Race and their Transformation in Modern Mexico" during the Fall 2019 semester and earn his doctorate in the History of Ideas program. His interests include genocide studies, the Holocaust, human rights, state-sponsored violence, racism, antisemitism and Latin American intellectual history.

Gonzalez Corona accomplished much during this past academic year. Since 2017, he has served as a liaison and international coordinator for academic collaborations between the Ackerman Center and multiple museums and human right centers across Latin America.

In the fall of 2018, he served as a speaker at UT Dallas' 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month event. He also led and coordinated Mountain View College's 2018 Health Fair, which was organized by the Mexican General Consulate. In the spring of 2019, he served as one of the key speakers for the Ackerman Center's third Annual Philosopher and Race

Workshop. He also traveled to Portugal to present at the International Conference on Interculturalism and Multiculturalism. In the summer of 2019, he became a fellow at the Seminar for Latin American Professors on the Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Violence at the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City and the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Washington D.C. He and Dr. Roemer also traveled to the Holocaust Museum in Guatemala to jointly present "Visualizing the Holocaust: A Victim's Perspective."

Alongside his extracurricular and academic achievements, Gonzalez Corona collaborated with Dr. Valente as a lecturer for the Spring 2019 undergraduate course, "The Holocaust and Human Rights in Latin America." He returns this fall as a visiting assistant professor for the Ackerman Center and plans to complete his PhD.







*PhD Students Hashmi (left) and Kathryn Yates beside Erzsébet "Erzsi" Fájó's name on The Righteous Among the Nations Memorial at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel in October 2018. Erzsi was Dr. Ozsváth's family nanny who saved them during the Holocaust in Hungary.*



*Top: Dr. Scott Swartsfager reads an excerpt from Voicing the Void for the 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day event.*

*Bottom: Amal Shafek presents her work on the collaborative project, "Digital Studies of the Holocaust," at the 48th Annual Scholars' Conference (ASC) in 2018. Her co-presenters included Dr. Sarah R. Valente, Piyush Atul Kamdar and Nikol Markandey.*



*Top: Dr. Valente and Selwin Belofsky at the 2013 Einspruch Lecture Series reception. Bottom: Karl S. Sen Gupta and Jeffrey Hirschberg present at the 2018 ASC.*





## AMAL SHAFEK

PHD STUDENT | HUMANITIES  
BELOFSKY FELLOW

Amal Shafek pursues original research on the Egyptian-Jewish diaspora in the second half of the twentieth-century, including the evolution of food culture. She presented “Falafel for Identity” at the 2019 North Texas Jewish Studies Conference. She also researches feminism and film and traveled to Ottawa, Canada in the fall of 2018 to attend the Sephardi Association of Ottawa’s film screening of the documentary, *Starting Over Again* (2015) along with an accompanying lecture. She is currently creating a documentary on Egyptian-Jews in the diaspora and tracing their ancestral remnants in the contemporary Egyptian landscape. She also works on the collaborative project, “Digital Studies of the Holocaust.”

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## CHRISSY STANFORD

MA’19 | PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
BELOFSKY FELLOW  
RECIPIENT OF THE ISTVAN AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND  
*made possible by the Lipshy Family Philanthropic Fund*

Chrissy Stanford graduated with her MA in History of Ideas in the summer of 2019. She served as a student representative on the Ackerman Center's Advisory Board. In the spring of 2019, she traveled with a panel to Oaxaca, Mexico to present her paper, “Deported from Latin America: German Internee Newspapers in Seagoville Camp,” at the 66th Annual Meeting for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. Stanford returns as a PhD Student for Fall 2019. Her research interests include the history of Polish Jewry during the Holocaust and representations of Nazism in film, particularly within the horror genre. Her research focuses on the evolution and significance of the “Nazi-zombie” figure in popular culture.



## CYNTHIA SETON-ROGERS

PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF AWARDS FROM THE ISTVAN AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND  
*made possible by the William and Sylvia Zale Foundation*

Seton-Rogers specializes in the Sephardic diaspora, focusing on the contributions they made in the old and new world. This past academic year, she presented several papers on the subject in conferences in Florida, Colorado, Spain and Portugal. One of her most recent presentations was “The Sephardim in the Age of Exploration and the Building of Empires” at the 9th Annual Conference of the Society for Sephardic Studies at The University of Lisbon. Recently, the journal, *European Judaism*, published her article, “The Exceptions to the Rule: Jews in Shakespeare’s England.” This year, Seton-Rogers also joined the board of directors for the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies.

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## DAN DUNHAM

MA’19 | PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS

Dunham presented his paper “Fragility of Narratives: Confronting Bulgaria’s Holocaust Past” at the 49th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches. He received a generous sponsorship from Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies. Along with graduating with his MA in History of Ideas in the spring of 2019, he also finished his Certificate in Holocaust Studies. He researches assimilated German Jews, particularly WWI veterans. Dunham continues in the fall of 2019 as a PhD student.







*Top: Stanford and Emily Riso following their presentations at the 66th annual SECOLAS conference in Oaxaca, Mexico in March 2019.*

*Bottom: Diana S. Briones reciting Miklos Radnoti's poem, "Razglendicas" ("Postcards") during the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Poetry Reading in May 2019.*



*Riso and Hashmi take a photo opportunity with a street dragon sculpture in Oaxaca, Mexico during the 66th annual SECOLAS conference.*



*Top: Stanford and Shafek have a bit of fun backstage while preparing for the 49th Annual Scholars' Conference (ASC) in March 2019.*



*Bottom: Yates and Hashmi visit an exhibit at Messuah in Netanya, Israel.*





## DIANA S. BRIONES

MA'19 | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF INTERNSHIP  
*made possible by the generosity of our  
supporters on Comet Giving Day*

In the spring of 2019, Briones traveled to Argentina for a semester-long internship at the Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires to conduct original research on a collection of Szerene Witt Oblatt's letters sent from Austria to her son in Mexico City between 1939–1942. In addition, Briones worked on research projects and contents for the expanding Museum's permanent exhibit. She amassed over 350 images of Nazi camps and ghettos for large digital maps and attended presentations and events the museum hosted come back to this one.



## JEFFREY HIRSCHBERG

PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF AN AWARD FROM THE ISTVAN  
AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND

Hirshberg specializes in St. Thomas Aquinas, Nietzsche, philosophy of mathematics and ethics.

In the spring of 2019, he presented his paper, “The Finite Within The Infinite: Mathematics and Redemption,” at the Internationale Rosenzweig Gesellschaft Conference: Back to Redemption: Rosenzweig’s *Star* 1919-2019 at Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel.



## EMILY RISO

MA STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF AN AWARD FROM THE ISTVAN  
AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND  
*made possible by Nancy A. Nasher and David J.  
Haemisegger*

Emily Riso traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to present her paper, “German Afrika Corps in Dallas: POW Interactions in a Racially Segregated Society,” at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies in the spring of 2019. Her research focuses on German prisoners of war and their interactions with the Dallas community while interned at the camp located at White Rock Lake during WWII. She compares the difference in treatment of POWs to minority citizens in Dallas at the time.

## KARL S. SEN GUPTA

PHD CANDIDATE | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF AN AWARD FROM THE ISTVAN  
AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH FUND

Sen Gupta specializes in post-Holocaust ethics, focusing on the thought of Emmanuel Levinas. In the spring of 2019, he presented his paper, “Dunamis or Kenosis? Divine and Human Self-Limitation in the Drama of Redemption,” at the Internationale Rosenzweig Gesellschaft Conference: Back to Redemption: Rosenzweig’s *Star* 1919-2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. He also published his chapter, “Kenosis as Command: On Franklin H. Littell’s *The Crucifixion of the Jews* and the Christian Response,” in Dr. Patterson’s latest book, *Legacy of an Impassioned Plea*.







*Top: Gonzalez Corona at the 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day event.*

*Bottom: Stanford and Barber enjoying the reception prior to the opening dinner for the 49th Annual Scholars' Conference.*



*Shafek and Dr. Ozsváth share a moment at the 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day event.*



*Top: Hashmi and Stanford assisting with registration at the 49th ASC*

*Bottom: Shafek and Dr. Shilyh Warren at the 48th ASC in 2018. Dr. Warren serves on Shafek's committee and mentors her on transnational feminist cinema.*



KATHRYN YATES

MA'18 | PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS  
RECIPIENT OF RECIPIENT OF AWARDS FROM THE  
ISTVAN AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH RESEARCH  
FUND  
*made possible by Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis  
Barnett and Family*

In the fall of 2018, Yates presented “The Transformation of U.S. Holocaust Museums” at the International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes Conference (ICMEMO) in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In the fall of 2019, Yates will conduct research at the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia in Mexico City on educational programming and the methods of community engagement at the museum. She explores how the museum contextualizes history in a way that generates activism for social change. She plans to use her research findings to establish similar programs in North Texas.



PHILIP D. BARBER

PHD STUDENT | HISTORY OF IDEAS | MIKE  
JACOBS FELLOW

A former Southern Baptist minister and high school English teacher, Barber researches the role of Christian churches in the Holocaust and Holocaust representation in public schools. In Fall 2018, Barber earned a graduate teaching certificate and taught rhetoric at UT Dallas. The following semester, he presented papers at two conferences on campus: “Hidden in Plain Sight: Decoding Dasein in § 74 of Heidegger’s Being and Time” at the 2019 Researching, Art and Writing Graduate Conference (RAW) and “The Role of Memoirs in Histories of the Holocaust” at the 49th Annual Scholars’ Conference.



SARAH J. HASHMI

PHD STUDENT | LITERATURE | BELOFSKY FELLOW  
RECIPIENT OF THE ISTVAN AND ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH  
RESEARCH FUND AND THE HERMAN ABRAMS RESEARCH  
FUND

Hashmi served as a student representative on the Ackerman Center’s Advisory Board. In the fall of 2018, she was awarded the 2018 Victor Worsfold Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year Award. She also traveled to Israel for the ICMEMO conference and discussed the use of visual analysis to examine the overlooked histories of Sephardic victims of the Holocaust. In the spring of 2019, she presented original research on Dallas’s portrayals of WWII “enemy aliens” at RAW and discussed American media perceptions of Latin America as well as the U.S. WWII propaganda campaign at the 66th SECOLAS Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico. Most recently, she presented on post-war identity crises in Japanese animation at the 7th Annual Fandom and Neomedia Studies Conference in Dallas, Texas.

SARAH SNYDER

PHD CANDIDATE | HISTORY OF IDEAS |  
EINSBRUCH FELLOW

Recently, the Museum and Education Center in Philadelphia published Snyder’s article, “The Journey of a Young Girl and Her family: Frieda Tabak’s Story of Survival.” She also presented research at several conferences. At the 49th ASC, she shared her experience working and living at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Memorial and Museum. She also presented “The Importance of the Cog: The Role of Adolf Eichmann in the Context of Jane Barnett” at the North Texas Jewish Studies Conference. In the summer of 2019, she was one of ten graduate students chosen by the Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellowship Program to spend three weeks in Poland visiting Holocaust remembrance sites and museums. Her current research focuses on the complexities of the term “post-Holocaust,” and explores how labeling historical events affects collective memory.







*Top: Humanities, Aesthetic Studies PhD Candidate Francesca Brunetti and Dr. Valente use a "Syntonic Refuge" shawl during the Holocaust Remembrance Day event.*

*Bottom: From the left, PhD Candidate Joanna Peluso, Sarah J. Hashmi and Amal Shafek take a photo at An Evening With Zsuzsi event in April 2016.*

*Top: Yates explores the Old City in Jerusalem during the ICMEMO conference in Israel.*

*Bottom: Seton-Rogers and Hashmi share a grin during the first day of presentations at the 49th ASC.*

*Top: Hashmi leads visitors through "The Eighteen," an exhibit on the Holocaust curated in conjunction with the Holocaust Cantata event in March 2019.*

*Bottom: Gonzalez Corona at the 2018 ISGAP summer institute at St. John's College at the University of Oxford.*

*Top: Hashmi and Yates snap a shot in the back of the bus on the way to the ICMEMO conference in Netanya, Israel.*

*Middle: Sen Gupta reads a poem at the 2017 Holocaust Remembrance Day event.*

*Shafek and Ferreira (bottom left) showcase a "Syntonic Refuge" shawl, and Dr. Valente (bottom right) reads a poem in Italian at the 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day event*



## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Students in the Holocaust Studies Program engage in various research projects. Many of them present at various conferences around the world. To give students a place to share their work locally, the Ackerman Center began hosting the Lunch and Learn Series in the fall of 2018 where students presented their research on a topics related to the Holocaust.

PhD Candidate Pedro Gonzalez Corona kicked off the first Lunch and Learn session in September 2018 with a presentation on the role of race and anti-Semitism in the nation-state building of Mexico. In October 2018, Dr. Sarah R. Valente shared original research on Holocaust memoirs in Brazil in the context of the surrounding political history from the 1930s to the present. In November 2018, Dr. Scott Swartsfager was third to present and discussed research he conducted on the Holocaust and the German occupation in the Netherlands.

In the spring of 2019, Diana S. Briones presented "My Dearest Beloved Son: Rediscovered Letters from the Holocaust," which discussed her research and translation of a series of letters that Szerene Oblatt Witt sent from her home in Vienna to her son in Mexico during the Holocaust. The letters document Witt's experience as an Austrian Jewish woman separated from her son.

Audience members enjoyed lunch while listening to presentations, asked students questioned and provided them with valuable feedback.



*Opposite Page: Top: Audience members attending Gonzalez Corona's Lunch and Learn presentation, "The Idea of Race in Modern Mexico: Transitional Race Technologies in the Era of Nation-State Construction. Bottom: Dr. Valente discusses her doctoral research in her presentation, "Holocaust Aftermath and Memory in Brazil,"*

*Top Right: Briones presents her findings during her research conducted in Argentina on the Oblatt Witt family. Left: Dr. Swartsfager outlines his major points in his presentation, "Promoting Normal: Jewish Culture in Occupied Amsterdam"*



*The Valley of the Communities*  
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel

Carved out of natural bedrock, the 2.5 acre monument commemorates more than 5,000 Jewish communities who suffered damage or destruction during the Holocaust. Although most were located in Europe, several extended beyond European borders. This photograph displays the names of affected Jewish communities in North Africa.

G R O W T H



ENDOWMENTS

Through the generosity of our supporters, the Ackerman Center has several endowments and named funds to help us fulfill our mission of "Teaching the Past... Changing the Future."

endowments that support academic outreach and support

- Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection
- Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies Fund
- Schuman-Ellman Opportunity Fund
- RFTF2: Researching for the Future Fund

endowments that support faculty

- Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies
- Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies
- Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies
- Stan and Barbara Rabin Professorship in Holocaust Studies
- Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Postdoctoral Fellowship

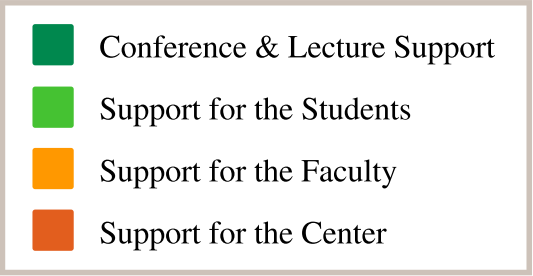
endowments that support graduate students in the holocaust studies program

- Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund
- Herman Abrams Research Fund
- The Max and Florence Wolens Research Fund in honor of Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth
- The Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies
- Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies
- Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship in Holocaust Studies

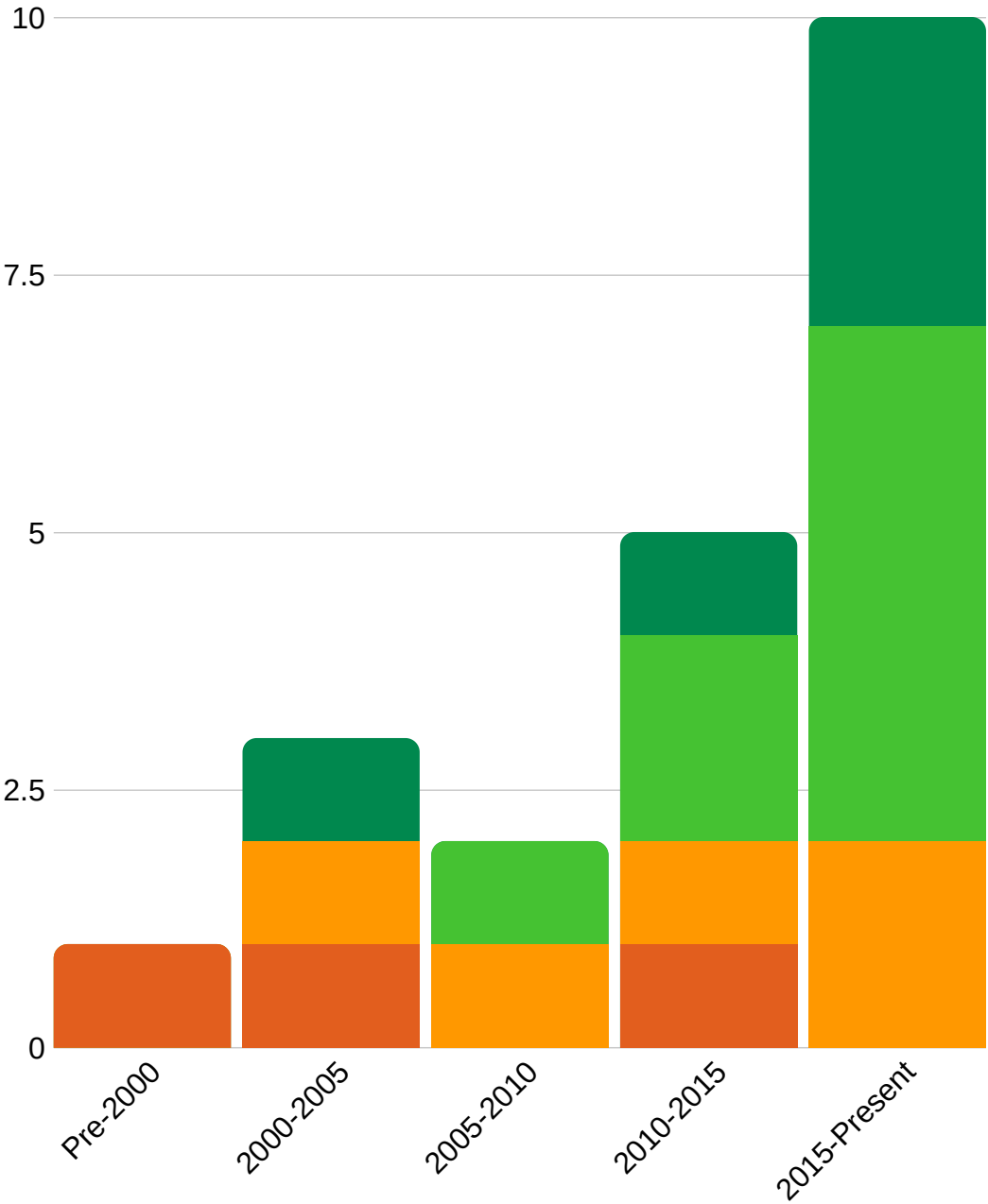
endowments that support conferences and lectures

- Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies Conference and Lecture Fund
- Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series
- Charles M. Schwarz Endowment in Holocaust Studies
- Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Annual Scholars' Conference Endowment
- Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies

ENDOWMENTS CREATED



Since our opening, we have seen tremendous growth through the endowments created. Over the past five years, the bulk of endowments are dedicated to supporting our students.





## A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: OUR FOUNDER, EDWARD M. ACKERMAN

(1928-2016)

*Edward M. Ackerman served as the general partner and portfolio manager of Ackerman Associates, L.P. from 1969-2007.*



Edward “Ed” Ackerman created a legacy that extends both deep and wide—from the visionary investment management firm that he founded to the extraordinary contributions within his profession and community, to a deep devotion to his family.

Edward was a native of Dallas, Texas, graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School and the University of Texas. He served as a lieutenant in the Air Force, stationed in Japan, during the Korean War. Following his service, he did post-graduate study in finance at New York University before returning to Dallas as Regional Manager. Venturing out in 1969, Edward founded Ackerman Associates, L.P. a hedge fund, and the first of its kind in Dallas. Over the next four decades, he compiled a legendary track-record of investment success.

Over his career, Edward lent his investment experience and wisdom to many organizations. He served as the Vice-Chairman of the Investment Advisory Committee of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and as a member of the Investment Advisory Committee of the Permanent Fund at the University of Texas. In addition, Edward was a long-standing member of the Investment Committee of the Hockaday School, where he was bestowed the honor of Life Trustee. He also served as a trustee and Chairman of the Finance Committee at the St. Mark’s School of Texas and as a trustee and member of the Investment Committee at the Southwestern Medical Foundation.

Edward retired in 2007 to focus on his philanthropic pursuits. Along with his late wife, Helma, he managed the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation, which provides financial support to many charitable causes. In addition to the aforementioned organizations, key beneficiaries of Edward’s time and resources included the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas Holocaust Museum, Hebrew Union College, the Society of Classical Reform Judaism, and Temple Emanu-El.

Edward’s passion for investing and his steadfast character have left an indelible mark on the investment firm he founded. Yet, to those who knew him best, he is remembered for his warmth, humility, generosity, and as the loving patriarch of his family, which he considered his greatest legacy.

### THE ACKERMAN CENTER LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER

*November 17th, 2019*

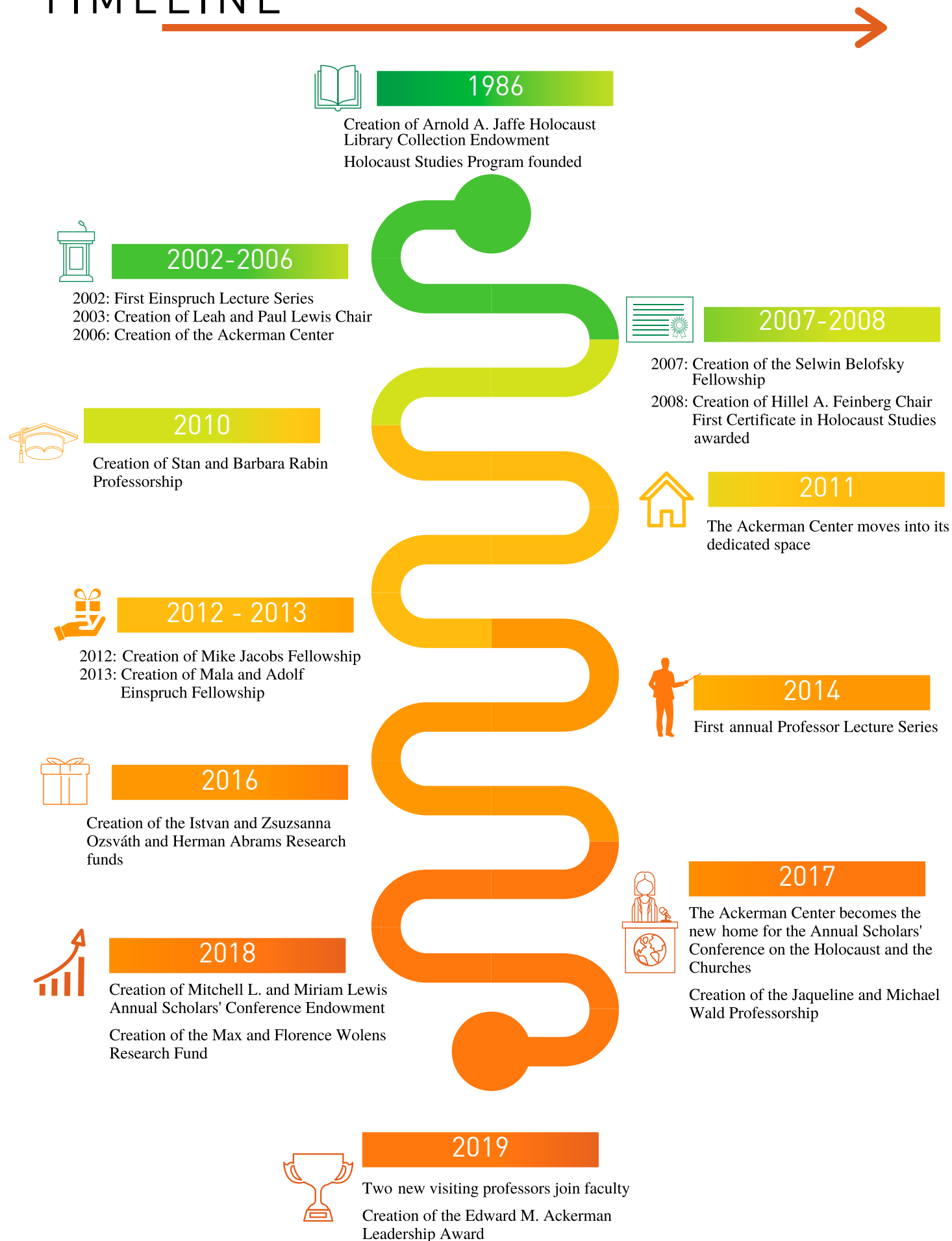
The Edward M. Ackerman Leadership Award will be presented to an outstanding individual or group who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to promoting the education and increased awareness of the Holocaust and related human rights issues. This leadership inspires or empowers others to become involved and engaged in ways that echo the mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies: “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future.”

*Find Event Details Online At:*

UTDALLAS.EDU/ACKERMANDINNER



# TIMELINE



## RESEARCH AT THE CENTER

### INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT THE ACKERMAN CENTER

#### RESEARCHING FOR THE FUTURE

A new initiative that recognizes that the digital age dramatically changes the way we read, see, interpret and create. Digital Humanities 2 embraces the openness and transformative quality of digital studies. Our growing cluster of research projects promotes the use of technologies to study and teach the Holocaust. They bring together enabling technologies for scholarly exploration and civic engagement about the Holocaust and its remembrance.

#### DIGITAL STUDIES OF THE HOLOCAUST

Many museums have compiled vast and accessible digital databases on every aspect of the Holocaust. In order to analyze such a massive scale of data, digital technologies allow us to simultaneously study the larger shifting patterns in the process of mass murder. This project dissects the complex process of mass killing and its constantly changing implementation within a large and shifting geographical space.

#### CONFRONTING THE PAST

This special project, made possible by a grant from the Communities Foundation of Texas, is designed to serve as a collaborative, interactive citizen history project that explores, documents and curates the history of hate and racial/ethnic violence in Dallas-Fort Worth. The interdisciplinary nature of this project has produced performances, exhibitions and features an online and interactive platform for digital exhibition, discussion and research.

#### THE CURIO PROJECT

This project has produced a continually evolving website to cultivate and curate objects that represent memories. It fashions a space where these items and the stories about them, not only stand as testament to the past, but in some small measure teach us about who we are and what our future is.



#### COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOPS TRANSLATION WORKSHOPS

The Ackerman Center holds translation workshops with students and faculty to translate Holocaust poetry into more than a dozen languages.

#### TRACING THE PAST THE KAHN COLLECTION

This project researches the 79 Hebrew and German books that were among the few possessions the Kahn family brought with them when they fled Germany before WWII. The collection continued to expand after the family settled in Dallas. Nancy Kahn, a member of the family, donated the collection to the McDermott Library's Special Collections Department.

#### FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

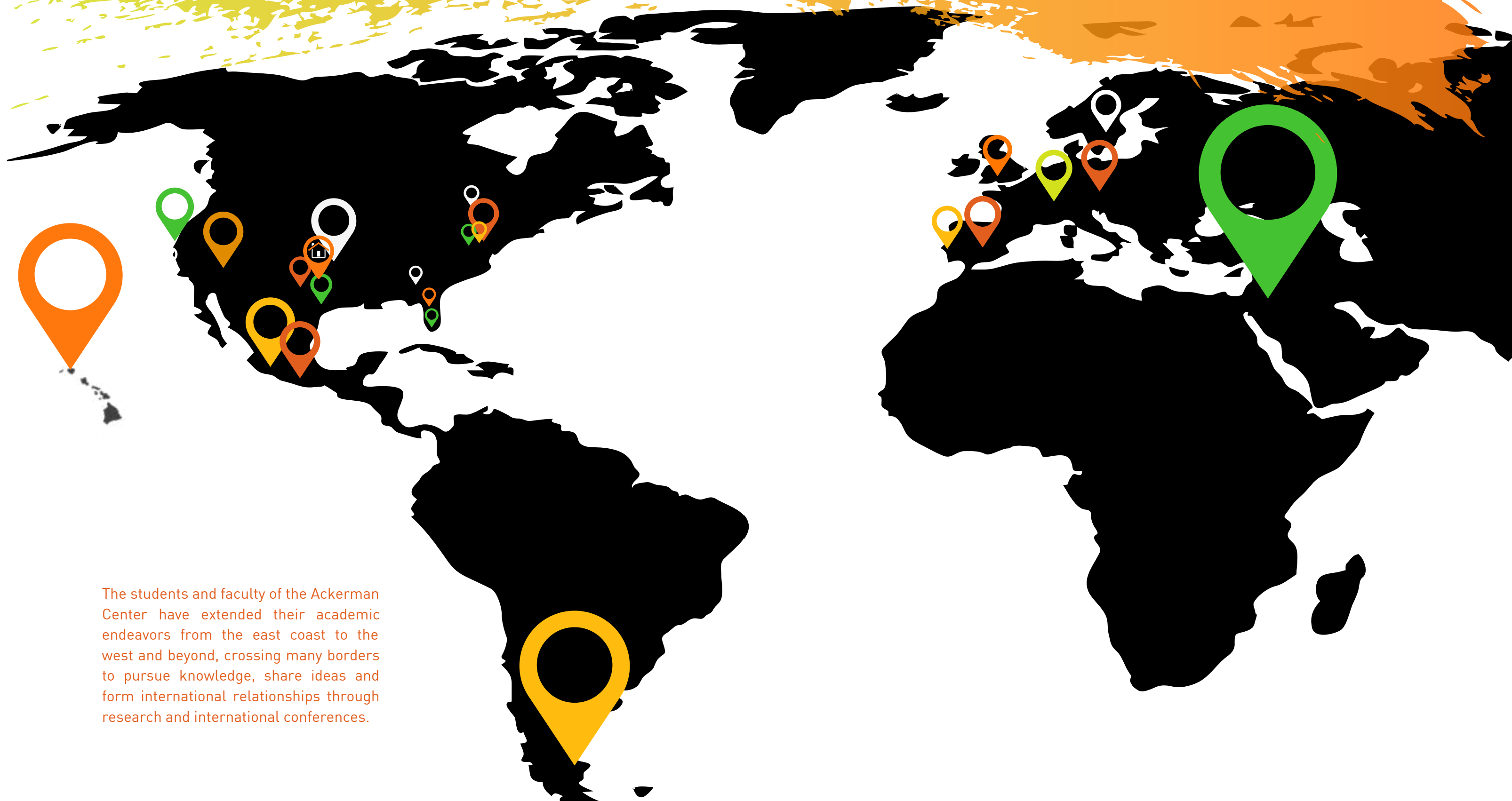
The Ackerman Center works with graduate students to research specific families through archives and primary sources to piece together family stories and teach students how to research and interpret results.

Visit our website to learn more about our ongoing research projects:

[utdallas.edu/ackerman/projects](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman/projects)



# THE ACKERMAN CENTER ACROSS THE GLOBE



The students and faculty of the Ackerman Center have extended their academic endeavors from the east coast to the west and beyond, crossing many borders to pursue knowledge, share ideas and form international relationships through research and international conferences.



# BREAKFAST WITH BERT

APRIL 2, 2019

Although 1.5 million Jewish children perished during the Holocaust, the British Parliament accepted only 10,000 refugee children as part of their Kindertransport program. Of all the Allied Powers, only Great Britain relaxed their immigration policy to allow Jewish children to flee Nazi persecution. The sheer lack of generosity remains significant given the ongoing humanitarian crises around the world.

In conjunction with UT Dallas's Giving Day Campaign, the Ackerman Center hosted special guest speaker Bert Romberg (right), one of the Kindertransport children who escaped Nazi Germany following the infamous Night of Broken Glass. Romberg shared the story of his family and the devastating separation they endured to survive the Holocaust that claimed the lives of 6 million European Jews.

Widowed and forced to sign all of her assets over to the Reich, Romberg's mother, Sida, made the difficult decision to entrust the care of her children to the Kindertransport in the hope that they would survive. The transport divided Romberg from his sister, Maggie. Meanwhile, the British allowed Sida to immigrate to London on the condition that she accepted a position as a housemaid.

Separated from each other for several years, the mother and son kept in touch through postcards. Romberg stressed how swiftly the situation in Germany changed for the Jews.



The rising anti-Semitism in politics rapidly led to the legislation that removed the legal and civil standing of Jews in Germany.

He emphasized the importance of sharing his experiences to encourage dialogue about the past as he expressed uncanny parallels in his story to contemporary issues in the U.S., such as immigration and the rise of intolerance of minority groups. He also expressed his gratitude toward his rescuers and asserted the responsibility of every human to respond to the outcries of other humans – to raise a hand and tell them, "Here I am for you."

Romberg and his wife, Terry, generously matched donations the Ackerman Center received for Giving Day. We wish to thank them and our friends and supporters for their selfless contributions that allow us to continue to our mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future."

# OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

## \$50,000+

Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation:  
*Paula and Douglas Menendez*  
*Caroline and David Ackerman*  
*Samantha and James Asch*  
*Beth and Eddie Ackerman*  
Renee and Hillel A. Feinberg  
Elizabeth and John H. Massey

## \$25,000-\$49,000

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Gateway Church  
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Stefanie N. Schneider and  
Jeffrey M. Robinson  
Charlotte Wolens Schuman

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Laurie and Charles Corson  
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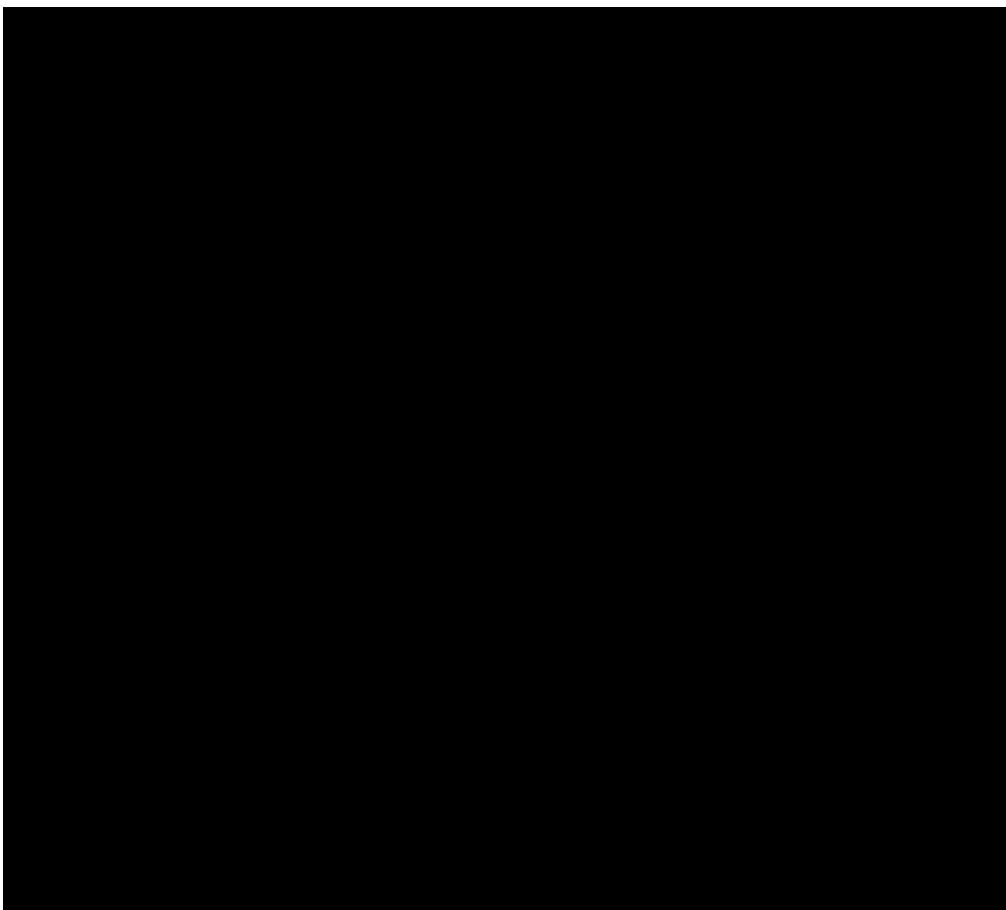
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