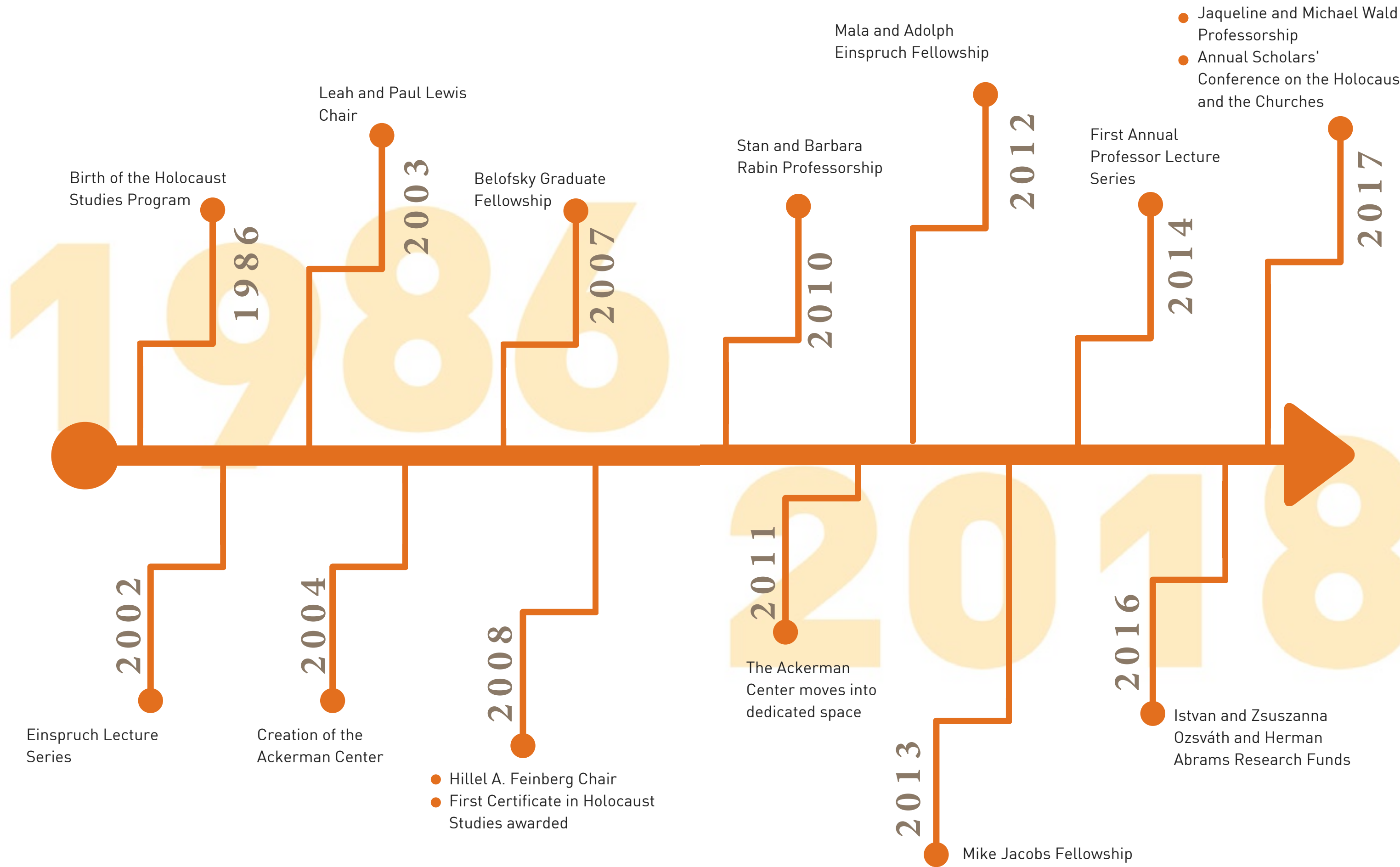




2017-2018
**ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER**

TEACHING THE PAST
CHANGING THE FUTURE

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Nils Roemer
Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor
in Holocaust Studies



"Never again" is more than just words; it is an investment in the future. The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies serves a vital role as an incubator of social consciousness and continues to expand its impact around the globe. This year alone, the Holocaust Studies Program awarded two doctoral degrees, five master's degrees and eight Certificates in Holocaust Studies. We hosted more public events, partnered with many new organizations, and became the permanent home of the prestigious Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches. The Center's faculty and students published new books and articles, gave lectures in both the Dallas metroplex and around the world, and conducted new research in numerous national and international archives.

The accomplishments of our friends, faculty and students are a continual source of pride. Just recently, UT Dallas awarded the 2018 Inclusive Excellence and Intercultural Engagement Teaching Award to our own Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair in Holocaust Studies, for her profound influence on students. Very soon, we plan to begin our search for a fourth endowed chair in Holocaust Studies, which will expand our ability to teach students about the history and legacy of the Holocaust.

Our own legacy began over thirty years ago when Dr. Ozsváth began teaching the Holocaust at UT Dallas with the wish to ensure that future generations of students would learn and pass on their knowledge. Today, our undergraduate and graduate classes attract more students than ever, and we also host an annual teachers' workshop, training middle and high school teachers on how to teach the Holocaust in their classrooms. The act of remembrance thus continues in our events, lectures, publications, training and research.

Without your generosity and support, the Ackerman Center would not have been able to accomplish all that it has. However, with hatred and anti-Semitism on the rise, we need your help more than ever. Holocaust denial is more frequent, democracies around the world are weakened, and university education is under threat. Consider supporting the Ackerman Center and join us in fulfilling our mission of teaching the past and changing the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nils Roemer".

Nils Roemer

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 three endowed professor and one senior lecturer offer a unique and multi-faceted learning environment that is supported by a devoted research library. The Ackerman Center is singularly focused on the study of the Holocaust and its legacies.

Studying the Holocaust at the Ackerman Center is an educational, engaging and transformative experience. The Center's diverse students play vital roles as educators, professionals and leaders in America and around the world.

About the Center

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.”

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

Endowments that Support the Faculty

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

Endowments that Support Conferences and Lectures

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

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Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies
Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies
Herman Abrams Research Fund

Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund

The Max and Florence Research Fund
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* of blessed memory

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EVENTS

STUDENT EVENTS

IBM and the Holocaust
Myth and Memory
Philosopher and Race Workshop
Graduate Workshop
Reading Claudius
Annual Einspruch Lecture Series
Yiddish Poems of the Holocaust
A Life for Football
The 48th Annual Scholars' Conference
featuring Irene Butter
When the Klan Ruled Dallas
Professor Sunday Lecture Series
Jewish History Lecture Series
Polykarp Kusch Lecture
Unwelcome Exiles: Jewish Refugees in
Mexico

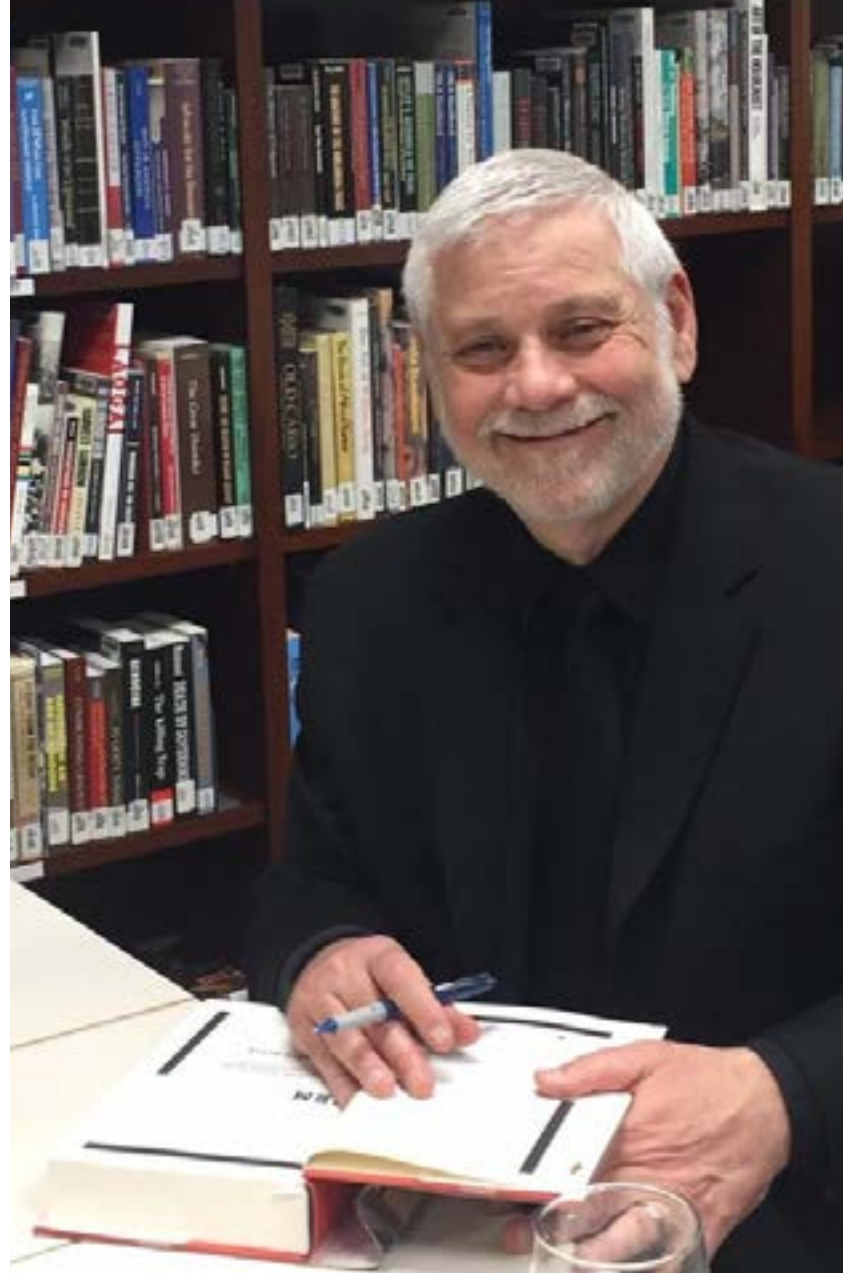
Sept. 13, 2017
Sept. 18, 2017
Sept. 24-25, 2017
Oct. 11, 2017
Oct. 29, 2017
Nov. 5-6, 2017
Feb. 21-22, 2018
Feb. 25, 2018

March 3-5, 2018
March 22, 2018
April 8-22, 2018
April 8-22, 2018
April 12, 2018

April 20, 2018

IBM AND THE HOLOCAUST

In conjunction with the Southwest Jewish Congress, Edwin Black presented his findings published in his book *IBM and the Holocaust*. Black's lecture drew a large audience eager to discuss his research involving International Business Machines' (IBM) involvement in the Holocaust. Black argues that through the leadership of Thomas J. Watson and the work of Herman Hollerith, Nazis were able to utilize a punch card system machine capable of collecting demographic data of large populations, allowing Nazis to collect and record information on their victims. This process enabled the cold, bureaucratic efficiency of the Nazi death machine. Black's book won the 2003 Outstanding Book Award: General Nonfiction from the American Society of Journalists and Authors.



Edwin Black signing a copy of his book in the Ackerman Center's library

MYTH AND MEMORY

Dr. Jennifer Craig-Norton, a post-doctoral fellow from the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton in England, discussed her archival research findings in her fascinating lecture, "Myth and Memory: New Perspectives on the Kindertransport." Dr. Craig-Norton criticized the often oversimplified and glorified viewpoint of the Kindertransport,

which emphasizes the positive outcomes and experiences of the child refugees. By examining written testimony and interviews with children who were part of the Kindertransport, she challenged the existing research on the role of voluntary relief organizations, the children's experiences and the fate of their parents who were previously excluded from the narrative.

PHILOSOPHER AND RACE WORKSHOP

The Ackerman Center hosted its first workshop on race and racism where scholars from different fields of study participated in a two-day seminar focusing on the conceptions of racism from the perspective of Asian-American, Latin-American, French and German philosophers. Participants discussed the origin of racism in the Enlightenment period and its subsequent consequences throughout history. Presenters included Dr. Demetrius L. Eudell of Wesleyan University, Dr. Emily S. Lee of CSU

Fullerton, and UT Dallas professors Dr. Charles Hatfield, Dr. Peter Park, Dr. Nils Roemer, and Dr. Shilyh Warren. The interdisciplinary nature of the workshop created a lively and intriguing debate on the spread of racism across the world. A follow-up event took place in May of 2018 in a workshop called "Racism and the Disciplinary Differentiation of Science and Philosophy" held in conjunction with UT Dallas's Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology's 8th Annual Conference.

TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

Organized alongside the Center for Translation Studies at UT Dallas, this two-day workshop began with Dr. Anita Norich, the University of Michigan's Tikva Frymer-Kensky Collegiate Professor, and her illuminating lecture "Yiddish Translation Matters: Translating Yiddish

in the 20th Century." The following day, Dr. Norich, Dr. David Patterson and visiting scholar Sebastian Schulman held a hands-on translation workshop where students, professors and community members participated in a group translation of a Yiddish poem.

GRADUATE WORKSHOP

Dr. Charles Asher Small, Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and the former director of the Yale Center for the Study of Antisemitism, met with graduate students in the Ackerman Center to discuss the current state of research into the subject of Antisemitism.



Dr. Anita Norich

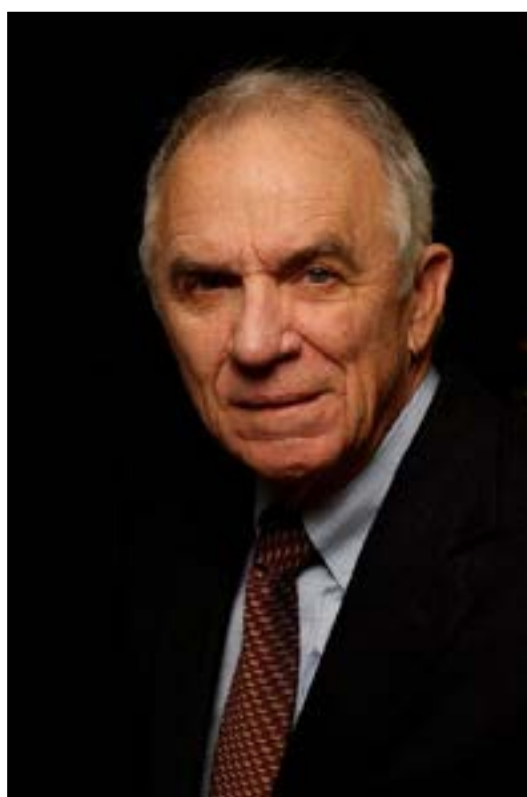
A LIFE FOR FOOTBALL

The Ackerman Center, the American Jewish Committee of Dallas (AJC), the German Consulate, the Goethe Society and the American Council on Germany hosted a screening of the 2014 film *A Life for Football*. The film depicts the true story of Kurt Landauer, the Jewish president of the distinguished German soccer club FC Bayern Munich, who returned after his release from the concentration camp Dachau to rebuild the club despite encountering anti-Semitism following World War II. After the film, Dr. Nils Roemer moderated a discussion panel with AJC Dallas board member Bryan Mark Rigg, the German Deputy Consul Bernd Reindl and FC Bayern Munich's Head of Partnerships Benno Ruwe.



Post-film panel: Dr. Roemer (left) moderates the discussion with Dr. Rigg (center) and Bernd Reindl (right)

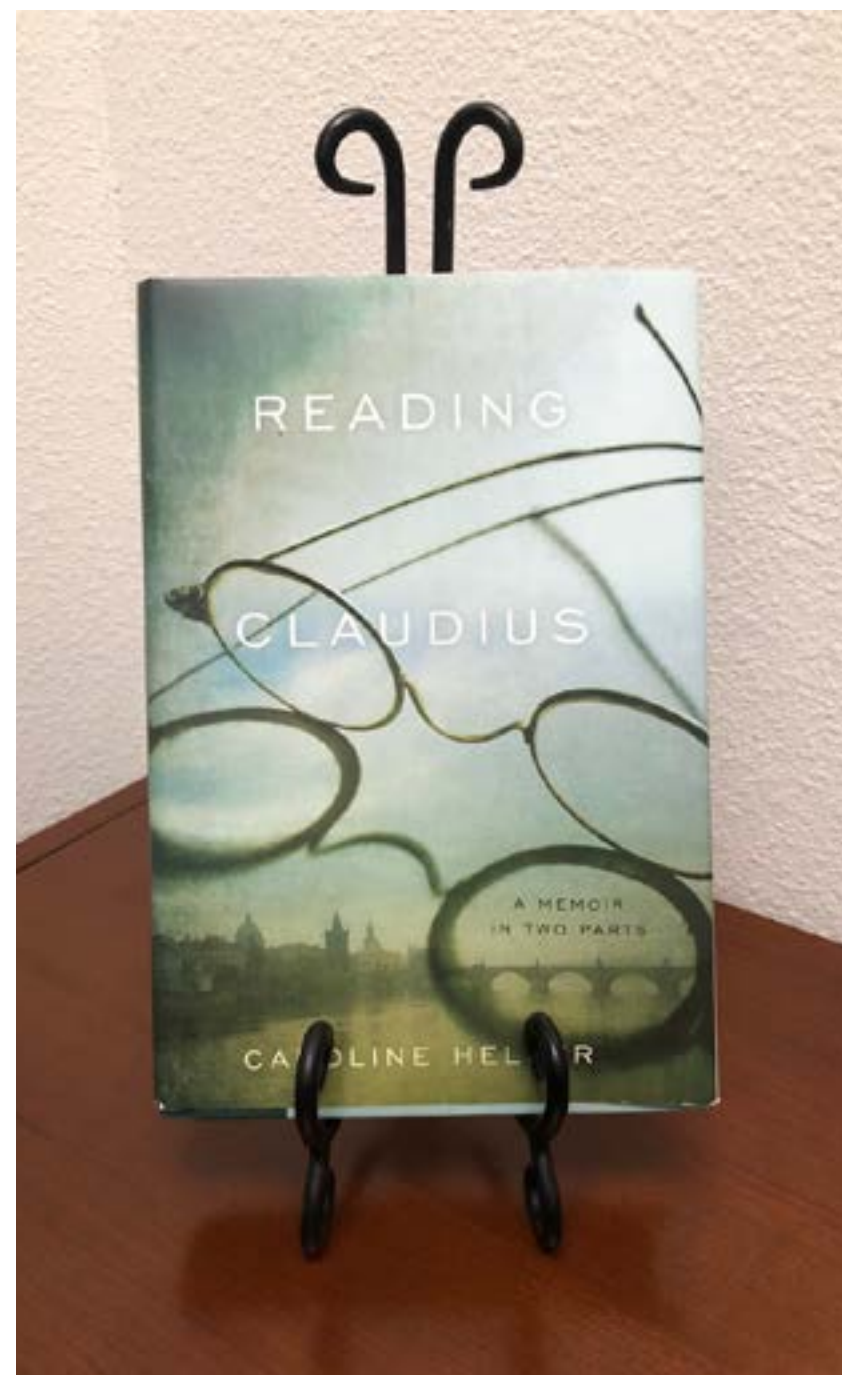
WHEN THE KLAN RULED DALLAS



Dr. Darwin Payne

The Ackerman Center invited journalist and SMU Professor Emeritus Darwin Payne to present his lecture "When the Klan Ruled Dallas" at the Davidson Auditorium at the Jindal School of Management at UT Dallas. Dr. Payne discussed the Ku Klux Klan's history with Dallas in the 1920s when it was home to the Klan's 66th chapter, the largest in the country. Within four short years, Klan no. 66 evolved into a powerful force, finding members among law-enforcement, businessmen and churchmen and even formed a women's chapter. To learn more about the Klan's presence in Dallas, Payne's article "When Dallas was the Most Racist City in America" is available through D Magazine. ,

READING CLAUDIUS



The Ackerman Center invited author Caroline Heller to discuss her family memoir *Reading Claudius: A Memoir in Two Parts* in the fall of 2017. The novel is told in two parts: the first relates the story of her family and their struggle through World War II and the Holocaust, and the second explores the impact it had on her life as a child of survivors. Heller's family fled when Hitler's power began to spread across Europe. While Heller's mother and uncle managed to escape to the U.S., Nazis imprisoned her father in the German concentration camp Buchenwald for six years. The resulting trauma stayed with Heller and inspired her desire to better understand their experiences and how they shaped who she is.

Caroline Heller is a professor of graduate studies in Educational Studies programs in the Graduate School of Education at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has worked as a qualitative researcher of out-of-school literacy, a writer for the Teaching Tolerance Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center and archival researcher for pre-war Central Europe. *Reading Claudius* was published in 2015 by Dial Press, Penguin Random House.

EINSPRUCH LECTURE SERIES

Each year, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas invites eminent scholars and prominent figures in the field of Holocaust Studies to present the Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series. This public forum exposes audiences to ground-breaking research in the field, promoting a much-needed exchange of ideas revolving around the Holocaust.

Past speakers for this program included Timothy Snyder, Deborah Lipstadt, Omer Bartov and Géza Röhrig. The 2017 Einspruch Lecture Series featured Dr. Michael Berenbaum, the director of the Sigi Ziering Institute at the American Jewish University. Dr. Berenbaum is a writer, lecturer and professor who has consulted in the conceptual development of museums and the production of historical films. He presented two lectures at the event, "Holocaust Memorials and the Perpetrators" and "Issues in Creating Holocaust Museums and Memorials: The Obligation to the Past, the Responsibilities Toward the Future," in which he discussed the function of memory in the creation of Holocaust museums and memorials.



*Above: Dr. Berenbaum delivers the 2017 Einspruch Lecture
Opposite Page: Audience members listen to the lecture*



PROFESSOR LECTURE SERIES

Each spring, the professors of the Ackerman Center present a lecture series on subjects related to Holocaust scholarship. The topics of 2018's discussion include Holocaust remembrance, the difficulty survivors faced as they struggled to rebuild their lives post-Holocaust, dialogue that emerged after the Holocaust as an attempt to understand it, and how post-war Europe, in particular post-war Germany, has been remembered since the event.

In her lecture "Rebuilding after the Holocaust," Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth discussed her experiences before, during and after the Holocaust. Dr. Ozsváth described her fear growing up a Jewish child in Hungary under the Nazi threat. She attributes her survival to a family friend, Erzsi, who risked her life to hide her family during the war. Toward the end of the war, she was separated from her family and forced to seek shelter in an abandoned house from raining bombs. She was eventually able to reunite with her family, and together they spent the remainder of the war sheltered in a hospital until the war's end. Afterwards, she fled her native Hungary to West Germany before immigrating to the United States. She completed her studies in Literature and began working at The University of Texas at Dallas where she spearheaded the creation of the Ackerman Center and founded the Holocaust Studies Program.

In "Emil L. Fackenheim: A Jewish Philosopher's Response to the Holocaust," Dr. David Patterson discussed post-Holocaust dialogue that has emerged since the end of WWII. He described Emil Fackenheim as one of the most prolific scholars who discussed the theological and philosophical implications of the Holocaust on humanity. Dr. Patterson posed the question of how to reconcile the fractured relationship between Man and G-d after their humanity has been destroyed by the devastation of the Holocaust. The process of systematic dehumanization employed by the Nazis was not only an attack upon the physical body and psyche but also the soul as a method to destroy the very essence of what it means to be human. The result was a unique product of the Third Reich: the Musselmann, a victim who is only an emotionless shell of a person with no will to live. It is this assault upon the human form that remains his focus of this ongoing post-Holocaust discussion.

Dr. Nils Roemer's lecture "Remembering the Holocaust and the War in Post-War Germany" discussed the devastating effect the war had on German towns, including his hometown of Hamburg. Dr. Roemer examined how both the war and the Holocaust are remembered and memorialized in Germany. Post-war Germans viewed the bombing of Germany's churches as a consequence of the Holocaust. How Germans have interwoven feelings of both guilt as perpetrators and pain as victims of the destructive allied bombings creates a complex narrative that Dr. Roemer's research sheds new light on. The audience was especially interested to hear Dr. Roemer's perspective as both a native German and a Holocaust historian.

JEWISH HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

The Ackerman Center presented their Jewish History Lecture Series in partnership with Teaching Pastor Dr. Scott Engle of St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Each of the Ackerman Center's chaired professors, Drs. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, David Patterson, and Nils Roemer, lectured on two topics each in Jewish history from Antiquity to the Holocaust to the State of Israel.

Each professor's lecture drew an audience of 400-500 guests, marking this lecture series as a success in broadening the Center's audience and fulfilling its mission statement of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." Dr. Patterson

described the response to the series as "highly fulfilling."

The Jewish History Lecture Series was the inaugural event for St. Andrew's newly renovated auditorium. The success of the series cemented the relationship between St. Andrew United Methodist Church and the Ackerman Center, and plans for future events are already underway.

If your place of worship or organization is interested in inviting the Ackerman Center professors for lecture events, please contact the Center via email at holocauststudies@utdallas.edu or by phone at 972-883-2100.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Every year, the Ackerman Center at UT Dallas hosts a poetry reading in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day where faculty, students and community members read Holocaust poems in various languages in memory of the six million souls who perished at the hands of the perpetrators and those who survived to tell their

stories. The 2018 event was held in the entrance hall of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building. Poems were translated into a variety of languages including German, French, English, Arabic and Spanish. The multitude of languages highlights the global impact of the Holocaust and ensures its remembrance on an international level.

THE 48TH ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

As of 2018, the Ackerman Center at The University of Texas at Dallas is the new permanent home for the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (ASC). Since its inception in 1970, the ASC has devoted itself to promoting interfaith, interdisciplinary and international academic conventions and endured, nearly five decades later, through the efforts of its founders Hubert Locke* and Franklin Littell.* Previously hosted by universities across the United States and abroad by Oxford University (England) and Humboldt University (Germany), the Conference serves as a catalyst for friendships between internationally-based individuals, promoting new research and collaborative projects. For nearly fifty years, participants have reported new findings, shared thoughts about controversial issues and demonstrated synergistic benefits in bringing together a range of interdisciplinary scholars.

The Conference's 2018 theme was "Critical Moments in the History and Memory of the Holocaust." It hosted dozens of presenters over a course of two days at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center at The University of Texas at Dallas. Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist Scott Murray led a special discussion between Dr. Patterson and Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell during the opening dinner. Conference speakers included scholars and students from around the world, including students from Yale, Israel and the UT Dallas population, providing students an opportunity to network with other intellectuals in the same field and showcase their individual research, group projects and talents. Notably, the UT Dallas student project "Exhibit Eichmann" was displayed for public viewing throughout the duration of the Conference. The Ackerman Center plans to continue to feature a special project each year at the Annual Scholars' Conference.

We are thankful to our sponsors' help in making the 48th Annual Conference a success and for their continued support for the 49th ASC, a special year for the Conference. This upcoming year marks the 75th anniversary of both the deportation of Hungarian Jews and the liberation of the extermination camp Majdanek in Poland. Up until the last year of the war, liberation and death continued to co-exist, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty. For this reason, the Conference's 2019 theme will be "Conflicting Realities of the Holocaust" which invites participants to revisit the Holocaust from the perspective of divergent realities and their representations and explore how victims and perpetrators interpreted these complex realities and how they informed their actions.

**of blessed memory*





SHORES BEYOND SHORES

In conjunction with the 48th Annual Scholars' Conference, Dr. Irene Butter (above) gave a public lecture about her life and her family memoir *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope, A True Story*.

As a child, Butter grew up in Germany but fled to Amsterdam to escape Nazi persecution. Although they eluded capture for a short period, they were eventually deported to Westerbork where she and her family managed to obtain Ecuadorian passports. They were then transported to Bergen-Belsen. Butter discussed the conditions in the concentration camp, her mother's illness, how she and her friends tried to help Anne Frank and her sister and how the passports gave them a different status than other victims. Only two days after being liberated from Bergen-Belsen, Butter's father tragically died, and they had to abandon his body in a train station in Biberach, Germany. After being displaced in various places, Butter arrived in the

United States and has been teaching students about the Holocaust and what she learned during those traumatic years. In her talk, she stressed the importance of educating others on discrimination and racism and having necessary dialogues to prevent future persecution(s). The lecture prompted its own dialogue: Many of the 150 audience members were moved by her family struggle for survival and asked questions, shared thoughts and approached Butter in person to express their feelings. Butter's contribution to Holocaust memory and scholarship is represented in both her memoir and the documentary *Never a Bystander*, which is available on DVD. She is also a co-founder of the Raoul Wallenberg Medal & Lecture at the University of Michigan, which is dedicated to humanitarianism. Furthermore, her dialogue group Zeitouna promotes positive relations between Arab and Jewish women who refuse to be enemies despite ongoing conflicts abroad.

UNWELCOME EXILES

General Consul Gilberto Bosques Saldívar, "The Mexican Schindler," is most commonly believed to have issued visas that saved 45,000 Jews during the Holocaust. However, Dr. Gleizer discovered documentation as part of her research that supports her argument that Bosques Saldívar had instead revoked visas and condemned many of the lives he was credited for saving. Why would popular sentiment override evidence that contradicted this popular tale?

In her lecture "Unwelcome Exiles: Jewish Refugees in Mexico," Dr. Daniela Gleizer discussed Mexico's exclusionary practices and policies of refugee immigration during the Holocaust. She challenges the "open door policy" belief, claiming that it is one of myth creation. These stories have grown increasingly more popular in recent years among political and private groups as an influential tool to promote agendas.

Backed by these groups, the Mexican government prevented ethnic groups, professions, and even entire countries from immigrating to Mexico by categorizing them as "un-useful" or unable to assimilate into their vision of society. Jewish immigrants experienced more stringent policies – even if they were otherwise considered "useful," they were limited in numbers because they were deemed as impossible to assimilate.



Dr. Gleizer (below left) is an associate researcher at the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). This lecture was presented jointly by the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, the Center for U.S.-Latin American Initiatives, AJC Dallas and the Southwest Jewish Congress.

Dr. Gleizer concluded that the construction and acceptance of fictitious assertions based upon historical dichotomous "roles," like the rescuer or the hero, have replaced historical fact and become a part of historical memory and collective self-identity. By examining exclusion policies that pertain to individual groups rather than as refugee immigration as a whole, Dr. Gleizer argues that the "open door policy" was much more selective than people are led to believe.



Teaching the Past

The Ackerman Center has three endowed professors and one lecturer who teach the history of the Holocaust in unique and interdisciplinary ways. In addition to their classes, all three conduct independent and original research in multiple fields. They are invited to speak in venues around the world and continue to devote themselves to teaching the past and changing the future.

The foundation of the Holocaust Studies Program at The University of Texas at Dallas are the courses our faculty offer students within the School of Arts and Humanities. The interdisciplinary nature of the program offers students the opportunity to study the event, what led up to it, and its legacy from multiple perspectives.

Courses are offered at both the undergraduate and graduate level to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are accessible and taught to students throughout the university. At the graduate level, the unique structure of the program allows students to concentrate their studies on any or all aspects of the Holocaust.

Graduate students can become candidates for the Certificate in Holocaust Studies, which is jointly awarded by the Ackerman Center and the School of Arts and Humanities. Graduates of this 15 credit-hour program achieve a critical understanding of the Holocaust as well as modern Jewish culture, the history of anti-Semitism and major contemporary responses to the Holocaust. The certificate is awarded at graduation in addition to the diploma earned in the students' chosen fields.

FACULTY

DR. NILS ROEMER

Dr. Nils Roemer serves as the director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and is the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor at The University of Texas at Dallas. Educated both in his native Germany and in the United States, he earned his MA from the University of Hamburg (1993) and his PhD from Columbia University (2000). He authored *Jewish Scholarship and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Germany: Between History and Faith* (2005), *German City – Jewish Memory: The Story of Worms* (2010), numerous articles and several co-edited volumes. Dr. Roemer has also worked as the co-editor of *Germanic Review*, which has given him opportunities to continue his study of German history, literature and culture.

This past year, he completed a new book that examines Jewish travel and travel writing. For many Jewish travelers, exploring foreign places opened up opportunities to experience and think about themselves and their communities in new ways by comparing and contrasting different notions of modernity, Jewish cultures and identities. In addition, he also embarked on a new book-length investigation of the Holocaust during the last years of the Third Reich that investigates the overtly inexplicable continuation of genocide as a radicalization of an apocalyptic worldview. The approaching defeat hastened and intensified the efforts to annihilate European Jewry. From the perspective of his study, military conflict has shaped the Holocaust far more than has often been assumed. This new study has benefited



from a collaborative research with several students from different disciplines who analyze the deportations in Western Europe. The project is built around an investigation of the big data of deportations across Europe. Dr. Roemer has also published several articles on the intersection of Holocaust, Jewish and postcolonial studies as well as Jewish spaces and memory. In addition, he has submitted several other articles for publication.

Every year, the growth of the Holocaust Studies Program brings new opportunities to meet and engage a new generation of highly diverse and exceptionally talented students at UT Dallas. Dr. Roemer's teaching last year centered on offering students new perspectives through three new graduate classes. In Fall 2017, he taught History & Memorialization, which studied the Holocaust and its representations through interdisciplinary perspectives. Students examined the ways in which war crimes trials, fictional and documentary films, museums, monuments and testimonies narrate the Holocaust. His students investigated the role of memory, trauma and post-memory in understanding the Holocaust.

In conjunction with this class, he also taught the class Eichmann on Trial, which addressed the life of one of the most notorious Nazi war criminals: Adolf Eichmann. Students explored his biography and investigated the unique collection of Eichmann artifacts and archives available at the Dallas Holocaust Museum for Education and Tolerance. Under his supervision, they curated an exhibit that was showcased twice on campus and also made a digital version available.

In Spring 2018, Dr. Roemer introduced his graduate class Archives of Atrocities, which analyzed the Holocaust within the realm of genocide studies and attracted a record number of highly diverse graduate students. The course offered opportunities to learn about different genocides, the Holocaust and their representations and memorialization.

In his undergraduate teaching, he was once again fortunate to co-teach a class on the Holocaust with fellow Ackerman professors Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and David Patterson. It is a special experience to offer this class annually and to give students the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust in conversation with three professors.

For the Fall 2018 semester, Dr. Roemer is teaching his Jewish Art and Architecture class which will examine the concept of Jewish art from religious, secular, and art history perspectives. He will also introduce a new seminar co-taught with Dr. Monica Rankin, director of the UT Dallas Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives (CUSLAI), which will investigate POW camps in Texas that detained Germans and "enemy aliens" during the Second World War. The class aims to produce both a physical and digital exhibit on their findings.

Below: Dr. Roemer with student in the Ackerman Center library



DR. DAVID PATTERSON

Dr. David Patterson holds the Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas. He earned his BA in philosophy (1972) and his MA and PhD in comparative literature (1976, 1978) from the University of Oregon. He has published over 35 books and 200 articles and chapters in both journals and books on a wide array of topics. Most recently, he authored *Portraits: The Hasidic Legacy of Elie Wiesel* (forthcoming), *The Holocaust and the Non-Representable* (2018) and *Anti-Semitism and Its Metaphysical Origins* (2015). He has won numerous awards including the National Jewish Book Award, the Koret Jewish Book Award, the Holocaust Scholars' Eternal Flame Award and the Hadassah Myrtle Wreath Award. He also serves as Editor-in-chief alongside John K. Roth for the Stephen S. Weinstein Series in Post-Holocaust Studies.

Prior to UT Dallas, Dr. Patterson taught at a number of universities, including the University of Memphis, where he held the Bornblum Chair in Judaic Studies; the University of Oklahoma, where he held the Sutton Chair in the Humanities; the University of Oregon and Oklahoma State University. A member of the World Union of Jewish Studies and the Association for Jewish Studies, he has delivered dozens of lectures at numerous universities and community organizations on six continents. He is also a participant in the Weinstein Symposium on the Holocaust and a member of the Board of Scholars for Facing History and Ourselves, the Executive Committee of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the



Holocaust and the Churches, and the Scholars' Platform for the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Cambridge, England. For the spring semester of 2018, Dr. Patterson taught a graduate seminar called Holocaust Memoirs which examined memoirs of the Holocaust as a genre of Holocaust literature. Throughout the course, Dr. Patterson and his students used an interdisciplinary approach to explore the issue of the recovery of life through memoir, the function of memory and how this genre differs from other memoirs. He also taught the doctoral level class Post-Holocaust Thought, which examined a variety of primary and secondary texts to explore the impact of the Holocaust on theological, philosophical and postmodern

thought in the aftermath of Auschwitz. The class was particularly interested in the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish identity, Christian theology and philosophy's ability—or inability—to respond to the event. In addition, Dr. Patterson also co-taught an undergraduate class on the Holocaust with fellow Ackerman professors Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and Nils Roemer.

For the Fall 2018 semester, Dr. Patterson is teaching a graduate seminar on the Holocaust required by graduate students who are pursuing the Certificate in Holocaust Studies.

Above: Dr. Patterson with Ackerman Center graduate students.
Right: Dr. Patterson after receiving the Eternal Flame Award



DR. ZUSZANNA OZSVÁTH

Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth holds the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies and is Director of the Holocaust Studies Program at the Ackerman Center of Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas. She earned a concert diploma in piano from the State Academy of Music in Hamburg, Germany (1961). She completed her PhD in German Language and Literature at the University of Austin (1968). A Holocaust survivor and internationally recognized Holocaust scholar, Dr. Ozsváth has also written extensively on writers and poets of the Holocaust such as Radnóti, Kosinski, Celan and Nelli Sachs. Her book *In the Footsteps of Orpheus: The Life and Times of Miklós Radnóti, 1909—1944* (1999) explores the biography of Radnóti and the political circumstances in Hungary during the interwar period. She also published her own memoir, *When the Danube Ran Red* (2014), which captures her experience living under the threat of the Nazis. She is an invited speaker at a number of conferences. She also serves as Associate Editor and East European Editor of *Common Knowledge* (Duke University). She is the recipient of the Fulbright Award, the IREX Award and, most recently, the Diversity Award.



Top: Dr. Ozsváth with Ackerman Center Students.
Far Left: Sharing a hug with Cricket, Dr. Roemer's wife.
Left: Dr. Ozsváth with Selly Belofsky.

Besides writing and editing, Dr. Ozsváth has also translated three volumes of poetry involving some of the greatest poets of Hungary 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. Most recently, they translated *Light Within the Shade: Eight Hundred Years of Hungarian Poetry*, which was elected as one of the most important books of 2015 by Choice magazine, and *The Golden Cup: Selected poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*. Outside of translation, she has published a number of articles dealing with aesthetic and ethical issues in French, German and Hungarian literature, as well as with the relationship between art and totalitarian ideology.

For the spring of 2018, Dr. Ozsváth joined both Dr. Roemer and Dr. Patterson in teaching an undergraduate class on the Holocaust. She also taught a graduate course called Literature and the Holocaust, one of the courses that satisfy the requirements for the Certificate in Holocaust Studies. This semester, Dr. Ozsváth is once again teaching an undergraduate class with the other professors. In addition, she is teaching a graduate seminar called Literature of Weimar Germany, which explores the history, culture and literary works that came out of the brief inter-war period in Germany.



OUR JOURNEY HOME

UT Dallas established the Polykarp Kusch Lecture series in honor of Dr. Polykarp Kusch*, Nobel laureate and former UT Dallas professor. For the 2018 lecture, UT Dallas selected our own Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth to serve as the speaker. Dr. Ozsváth presented “Our Journey Home” where she discussed her life’s journey through the tumultuous Holocaust and beyond. She gave a similar talk called “Coming Home” as part of UT Dallas’ 2017 Homecoming week in November.

Dr. Ozsváth was forced to flee her native Hungary, escape through Austria and into West Germany. Under the threat of a different regime, she struggled daily with the thought of having to abandon her family and escaping communist-occupied Europe in order to rebuild her life. Alongside her husband, Dr. Istvan “Pista” Ozsváth*, she obtained false papers that enabled the couple to enter the United States and eventually come to The University of Texas at Dallas. Pista became one of the first members of the relativity research group in the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, the precursor to

UT Dallas, in the Department of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics as an associate professor in Earth and Planetary Sciences. Eventually, UT Dallas honored him as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Dr. Ozsváth finished her doctorate in German Literature at The University of Texas in Austin before working as an associate professor at Bishop College, a historically black college, until 1979. Thereafter, she joined UT Dallas and began teaching courses on literature and the Holocaust. Since the 1980s, she has worked on several translation projects, including translating the work of Hungarian poet Miklos Radnóti and many beloved Hungarian poems in her book *Light Within the Shade* alongside fellow UT Dallas professor Dr. Frederick Turner. In 2003, she was invested as the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies. In 2009, she was appointed to The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission. Her 2010 memoir *When the Danube Ran Red* details her childhood in Hungary and life under the threat of the Holocaust.

*of blessed memory



COMING HOME

Dr. Ozsváth (center) joined by her son-in-law Dr. Gary Bernardini (left) and her son Dr. Peter Ozsváth (right) for the 2018 Polykarp Lecture.

DR. DEBBIE PFISTER



Dr. Pfister is a triple UT Dallas alumni who earned her doctorate in 2009 in Studies in Literature, completing her dissertation work on the Hungarian Jewish artist Imre Ámos, who perished in the Holocaust. Previously, Dr. Pfister pursued literary studies at both the undergraduate and graduate level. In addition to coordinate events for the Ackerman Center and pursuing her research, she also teaches several undergraduate classes on the Holocaust and related subjects. This past spring, Dr. Pfister taught two history courses, World War II and the Holocaust and a course called Hitler, Stalin and Atrocity. This semester, she is teaching a senior undergraduate course called The Holocaust and a second class called The Holocaust and Representation, which aims to study the depiction of the Holocaust in art, film and literature.

Each year, Dr. Pfister hosts an annual teachers' workshop on the Holocaust for secondary teachers across the metroplex. Middle school and high school teachers gather to explore teaching methods and resources. The workshop is worth 16 hours of continuing education credit, provides teachers with lesson plan materials in multiple disciplines and is free of charge.



2018 Annual Holocaust Teacher Workshop



A LITERARY CONVERSATION

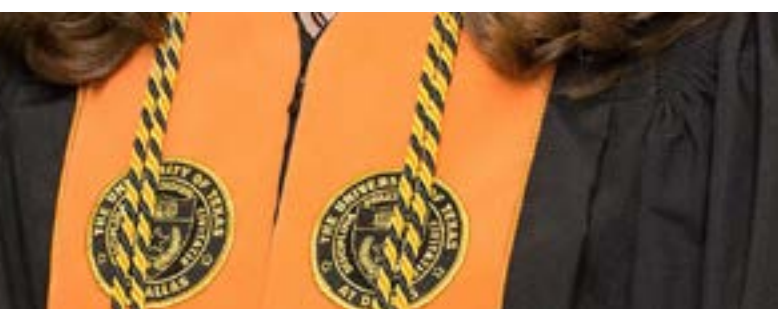
Our partnership with the Translation Studies Center at the School of Arts and Humanities at UT Dallas brought a unique opportunity to discuss a fascinating new book about the Holocaust by Polish author Hanna Krall called *Chasing the King of Hearts*. Widely acclaimed translator Phillip Boehm along with Dr. Nils Roemer explored this immensely perplexing tale about Nazi-occupied Poland at a bookstore owned by local publisher Deep Vellum.

Broken into short chapters with unassuming titles, the novel confronts the reader with a fragmented, disorienting world marked by uncertainty. Boehm, who aptly translated the novel into English, and Roemer discussed the literary markers of this book in the style made popular by Roger and Ebert. Readers slide through the vignettes barely able to orient the story within the historical scope of the Nazi regime and its policies. Nothing is certain or predictable in a world of mass murder.

The novel is myopic; each chapter details the appearances of individuals, describes day-to-day life and almost overwhelms the reader with its textures and colors without providing historical context.

The novel follows a woman named Izolda who finds reassurance from a card-reading which foretells that she will soon hear from her missing husband, Shayek. This fantastical reassurance in a world without reason empowers Izolda to endure the impossible task of chasing after him, her King of Hearts, and ensuring he survives the Holocaust.

Above: Students and community members attend the book talk between Dr. Nils Roemer and translator Phillip Boehm at Deep Vellum Publishing. Winner of the 2018 PEN Translation Prize and named one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 2017, Chasing the King of Hearts is available through kindle and paperback format.



At the heart of the Ackerman Center and the Holocaust Studies Program are our students. Coming from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, they unite on collaborative projects and embark on groundbreaking research in the field of Holocaust studies. These aspiring scholars are instrumental in changing the future.

STUDENTS



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

This year, we are proud to announce that three students from the Holocaust Studies Program graduated with their PhDs, five with their master's degrees and ten earned their Certificate in Holocaust Studies. Our three professors currently supervise dozens of graduate students at both the master's and doctoral levels.

Among our recent doctoral graduates, Mary Catherine Mueller PhD'18 (left) now lectures full-time in the Department of English at the Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences at Southern Methodist University, and Charles Carpenter PhD'17 teaches as an associate professor of Humanities at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



*From Left to Right:
Pedro González, Scott Swartsfager, Shamim Hunt, Trisha Murphy, Amal Shafek, Kathryn Yates, Sarah Snyder, Stan Rabin, Marlene Gorin, Sarah Valente and Selly Belofsky*

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Ackerman Center provides financial support through three fellowships and two research funds. The Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies funds PhD students studying topics related to the Holocaust. Belofsky Fellows receive monthly stipends along with full remission of UT Dallas tuition and fees for up to five years. Currently, the Belofsky Fellows are PhD candidates Sarah R. Valente and Scott Swartsfager. Valente researches Holocaust literature of Brazil, Latin-American intellectual history and translation studies. Swartsfager specializes in the destruction of the Amsterdam Jewish community.

The Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies and the Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies award annual stipends to assist UT Dallas graduate students focusing on Holocaust Studies. Current recipients of the Einspruch Fellowship are PhD students Trisha Murphy (pictured right) and Terin Tehan. Murphy's research interests include the Catholic Church's reaction to the Holocaust and the collaboration of citizens with Nazis in occupied territories. Tehan interests incorporate Holocaust representation, digital rhetoric and German literature. She researches how Holocaust narratives are framed in new media texts.

PhD students Philip Barber and Sarah Snyder, and PhD candidate Pedro González are the current recipients of the Jacobs Fellowship. Barber's research interests include the role of public education in Holocaust representation and the history of anti-Semitism in the Churches. Snyder pursues research on trials against those who committed atrocities during World War II.

González investigates the multiple transformations of the idea of race in modern Mexico. He studies the transitional period between the 18th and 19th centuries, in which the formation of a nation-state manufactured socio-economic hierarchies based on racial thematization. González is also interested in Latin American anti-Semitism, state-sponsored violence and racism.



STUDENT RESEARCH

The following students have either conducted, presented or published original research in Holocaust Studies and related fields. Many received support from the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund, created in honor of our beloved Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth and her late husband Dr. Istvan Ozsváth, a founding faculty member at UT Dallas.

Students also received support from the Herman Abrams Research Fund, which was generously donated by the Judith Lifson in memory of her late father Herman, a former graduate student of the School of Arts and Humanities at UT Dallas. The funds help students conduct original research in archives and libraries and attend and present that research at conferences.



During the summer of 2018, MA student Diana S. Briones (left) participated in a one-month internship at the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia in Mexico City where she translated Szerene Witt Oblatt's letters sent from Austria to her son in Mexico City between 1939 - 1942. A victim of the Holocaust, Schaffer was unable to join her son. She was deported to Minsk where she was murdered. Previously, the museum translated the letters from their original German into Spanish. As part of her internship, Briones annotated and translated the letters from Spanish into English.

PhD candidate Rawad Alhashmi (right) presented at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Annual Conference in Hawaii. He also spent the summer of 2018 as a research assistant with the Ackerman Center, translating key Holocaust texts into Arabic.



PhD candidate Pedro González (left) attended the fourth annual ISGAP-Oxford Summer Institute for Curriculum Development in Critical Antisemitism Studies at Oxford University. The vigorous two-week program focuses on developing studies on anti-Semitism as an academic discipline and provides scholars the tools to develop courses devoted exclusively to the study of anti-Semitism.

PhD candidates Karl S. Sen Gupta (right) and Claire Soares (below right), and PhD student Sarah Snyder (below) presented papers in Kraków, Poland at the 11th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies Conference. Snyder also traveled to Gdansk, Poland to present at the Memory and Nostalgia Conference.





PhD student Sarah J. Hashmi (left) presented her paper “Beauty and The Shrine: Understanding Aesthetics in Islam through The Dome of the Rock” at the South Central Modern Language Association 74th Annual Conference. She also participated in the 48th Annual Scholars Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches with her paper “The Others: Eugenics and Genetic Discrimination in The Painted Bird.” Additionally, Hashmi assisted in the curation of “Exhibit Eichmann” alongside fellow graduate students under the supervision of Dr. Nils Roemer. The exhibit was featured both on campus and at the Annual Scholars Conference. She also earned her Holocaust Studies Certificate.

PhD candidate Shamim Hunt (right) conducted archival research on Fromm’s unpublished works for her thesis at the Erich Fromm Institute in Tübingen, Germany. She presented part of the thesis at the Third International Erich Fromm Seminar for Doctoral Students and Postdocs in Berlin.



PhD Student Cynthia Seton-Rogers (left) presented at the 2018 British Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference at Durham University and conducted research at the British Library and National Archives in London, England. She published her paper “The Exceptions to the Rule: Jews in Shakespeare’s England” in the academic journal *European Judaism*.

PhD candidate Sarah R. Valente (Right) published her book chapter “Two Generations After” in the forthcoming 2018 edition of *The Profound Impact of an Impassioned Plea: Franklin H. Littell’s The Crucifixion of the Jews*. She also participated in a number of conferences this past year including the 12th Biennial Stephen S. Weinstein Holocaust Symposium in Oxfordshire with her paper “Colloquy #9 Where Are We Now? Imperiled Truths and Repairing the Commons;” the 48th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches in Dallas with her paper “Digital Studies of Deportations: Deportation of Italian Jews and Foreign Jews in Italy: A Case Study” and her Portuguese translation of Paul Celan’s poem “Death Fugue;” the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, D.C. with her paper “Following the Nazi Trail to South America;” and the American Literary Translators Association 40th Anniversary Conference in Minneapolis with her paper “Double Lives: Grad Students Who Translate.”



MA student Kathryn Yates (above) traveled to Germany and studied how museums and the arts community in Berlin work to support recent immigrants by promoting tolerance, empathy, and understanding within an increasingly diverse population.



PhD student Amal Shafek (below) attended the Jews in Muslim-Majority Countries: History and Prospects Conference in Berlin. The conference brought together established scholars on this under-studied topic. Shafek’s research centers on the cultural history of Egyptian Jews in modern and contemporary Egypt as well as feminism in Egyptian cinema.



EXHIBIT EICHMANN



Eichmann Painting

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, graduate students curated "Exhibit Eichmann," a collection of multi-media artifacts that presented a fresh perspective on the 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann. The students experienced the field of public history through a hands-on, collaborative approach, exploring a wider range of opportunities within the field of arts and humanities. The exhibit team spent the fall semester in a class with Dr. Roemer, the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor of Holocaust Studies, researching the life and trial of Adolf Eichmann and laying the foundations of the exhibit. The students purposefully intended not to sensationalize Eichmann so that visitors experienced the trial in a way that focused on its importance as a turning point in the study and remembrance of Holocaust history.

In order to construct an exhibit that was both informative and visually engaging, students worked together to apply both their analytical and creative skills. Each student contributed their specific areas of expertise, resulting in a well-rounded final product. One student remarked, "I think the best part of creating this exhibit was being able to bounce ideas off each other freely. When one person contributed something, someone else would get inspired and contribute their idea, which would get everyone excited. And all of a sudden, it was like a flurry of ideas that came together to produce something concrete and unique that we could share with others."



Top: Exhibit Eichmann team members. From left, Philip Barber, Leticia Ferreira de Souza, Daniel Dunham, Dr. Nils Roemer, Amal Shafek, Briana Bacon, Chrissy Stanford and Sarah Hashmi.



EICHMANN SYMPOSIUM

The exhibit opened to the public on January 27th, 2018 just outside the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and was featured a second time at the 48th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches. The trial established a platform for witnesses to verbally convey their experiences while the rest of the world watched and listened. Fifty-seven years later, "Exhibit Eichmann" reiterated the trial's relevance and allowed visitors from diverse backgrounds to connect and reflect upon its significance in ushering in The Era of the Witness.

The Ackerman Center and the Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance jointly hosted a symposium on the trial of Adolf Eichmann at the Jewish Community Center in Dallas. Students of Dr. David Patterson presented various papers on different aspects of the trial. The topics included religion and theology, aesthetics, and the impact of the trial on the world. The Symposium also hosted Ellen Rudolph, executive director of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, as the keynote speaker. Rudolph spoke about the museum's traveling Eichmann exhibit, "Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann," and the process of creating the exhibit. Information about the exhibit and its current and future locations is available on the Maltz Museum's website.



GROWTH

For more than three decades the Ackerman Center has transformed from a small program led by one passionate professor into a vibrant academic center. Each year, our programs reach thousands of students and community members through lectures, workshops, and graduate and undergraduate courses. Our faculty and staff are committed to the Ackerman Center's mission and success.

Change the Future

ACADEMIC ALLIES

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and the Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives (CUSLAI) are pleased to announce an academic collaboration with multiple Holocaust Museums in Latin America.

In January of 2018, the Ackerman Center and CUSLAI formed an academic alliance with the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia (The Museum of Memory and Tolerance) in Mexico City. The partnership will jointly present scholarly lectures, symposiums, conferences and workshops as well as sponsor student internships. This will bring together three distinguished institutions dedicated to studying genocide, the Holocaust and human rights.

Dr. Nils Roemer, Director of the Ackerman Center, and Pedro González, CUSLAI Research Assistant, also traveled to Guatemala City, Guatemala to meet with the administration for the Museo del Holocausto Guatemala (Museum of Holocaust, Guatemala) and leaders in the field of Holocaust education, human rights and social justice to discuss drafting collaboration agreements.

Internships with the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia will be open to UT Dallas undergraduate and graduate students. These internships would be ideal for students interested in Holocaust and genocide studies, public history, translation studies or human rights.

Above Left: Dr. Roemer visits the Museo del Holocausto Guatemala in Guatemala City.

Below Left: Dr. Roemer shakes hands with Adan F. Garcia, Academic Director of the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia in Mexico City

COLLABORATIONS

The Ackerman Center has collaborated with many different centers, institutes and groups throughout UT Dallas and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

- Confucius Institute
- Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology
- Center for Translation Studies
- Center for U.S.-Latin American Initiatives
- School of Arts, Technology, & Emerging Communications
- Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History
- The Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein Women's Center
- Naveen Jindal School of Management
- School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences
- Labsynthe
- Rainbow Guard
- Anti-Defamation League
- Center for Jewish Education
- Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance
- Dallas Museum of Art
- Dallas Jewish Historical Society
- Dallas Video Association
- Goethe Center
- Jewish Film Festival
- Latino-Jewish Relations at Texas A&M University
- North Texas Council of Jewish Studies Professors
- Southwest Jewish Congress
- Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission



Elledanceworks at Collin College: Death Fugue (2017); a dance depiction influenced by Paul Celan's poem "Death Fugue." The collaborating artists created a powerful dance work.



- Atlanta, GA
- Buffalo, NY
- Miami, FL
- Flagstaff, AZ
- College Station, TX
- Houston, TX
- Honolulu, HI
- Washington, D.C.
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Guatemala City, Guatemala

THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN

Ackerman Center faculty, staff and students continue to foster and establish relationships around the globe. This year alone, they have attended and presented at various academic conferences and conducted original research in local and international archives.

- Berlin, Germany
- Hamburg, Germany
- Tübingen, Germany
- Auschwitz, Poland
- Gdansk, Poland
- Kraków, Poland
- Treblinka, Poland
- Warsaw, Poland
- London, UK
- Durham, UK
- York, UK
- Oxford, UK
- Wroxton, UK
- Southampton, UK



- Ashkelon, Israel
- Ashdod, Israel
- Jerusalem, Israel

BE PART OF THE FUTURE

Funding Opportunities

Support the Ackerman Center Friends Fund
 Support the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund
 Underwrite the Holocaust Conference
 Expand the Einspruch Lecture Series
 Underwrite our Growing Research Library

Naming Opportunities

Create an Opportunity Fund
 Create a Scholarship or Fellowship
 Create or Support a Professorship or Chair

Plan a Gift

Leave a lasting legacy with the Ackerman Center through a planned gift.
 These gifts might include a bequest, charitable income gifts,
 IRA rollovers or stocks.

Make a Gift

Mail a check payable to
 UT Dallas-Ackerman Center to:
 Ackerman Center
 800 W. Campbell Road,
 JO31 Richardson, TX 75080

Please indicate in the memo line if you have a specific fund to
 which you want to designate your donation. Your gift is tax-
 deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you prefer to give online, go to
utdallas.edu/ackerman/giving.

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