



# Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

**YEAR END ACTIVITIES  
AND 2005 GIFT REPORT**

**JUNE 2004 THROUGH MAY 2005**

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The people, programs, and  
events advancing scholarship  
in the field of Holocaust  
and genocide studies

**CLARK**  
**UNIVERSITY™**  
CHALLENGE CONVENTION, CHANGE OUR WORLD™

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**Whoever fails to increase knowledge,  
decreases knowledge**

— *The Ethics of the Fathers*

## Letter from the Director

August 2005

Dear Friends,

“Upon the subject of education,” Abraham Lincoln reflected, “I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.” I agree. And I am delighted to report that, with undergraduate internship projects covered in papers as prestigious as the *New York Times*, graduate students selected to present papers in national and international conferences across Europe and the United States; a dazzling public lecture series; and a photo exhibition on the rebirth of Jewish life in central Europe that drew viewers from near and far, the Center enjoyed outstanding success in our mandates of teaching, research, and public service.

Standing on a sterling base of accomplishment (of which all of the above is only a part, as you will read in the following pages), we seek to grow the Center. New opportunities have emerged, and it is our responsibility to take advantage of them. When the Center initiated its graduate program in 1998, the Berlin Wall had fallen a mere decade earlier. Scholarly work on the history of the Holocaust in the east of Europe had only just begun and, as Distinguished Visiting Professor Yehuda Bauer has observed, the dearth of research continues to loom large. A number of our students have turned their attention to these regions where the vast majority of European Jews once lived — and perished. We applaud them, and we are proud that they signal new growth.

If new opportunities have emerged, so too

have new problems. They are our responsibility also. As genocidal situations continue to unfold, the need for analysis intensifies. We brought eminent scholars and politicians to our community and our Center: Yehuda Bauer on radical Islam; architectural critic Paul Goldberger about Ground Zero, and European Union anti-terrorism czar Gijs de Vries on the balance between anti-terrorism initiatives and human rights protections. Collaborating with the Swedish company Proventus, we ran an international symposium to explore the relationship between economic decline and the erosion of democratic principles and to consider ways to strengthen social structures to support democracy.

The mounting toll in Darfur and the rise in antisemitism might bring George Orwell to mind: “If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — forever.” But we here at the Center hold fast to Abraham Lincoln’s observation: “The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.” Understanding the antecedent causes of genocide opens the door to possibilities for political prevention and humanitarian intervention. Alternatives to the boot abound.



We look to you for support as we prepare for the future, one day at a time.

*Debórah Dwork*

Debórah Dwork

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

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—Debórah Dwork

## Dr. Yehuda Bauer: Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor



Dr. Yehuda Bauer teaching one of his courses at Cohen-Lasry House

**Dr. Yehuda Bauer** is an internationally respected scholar and teacher, but at the Center, he's also a member of the family. Bauer was back at the Center for the fall 2004 semester, during which he taught courses and delivered a public lecture to a standing-room-only audience (see story page 3).

Bauer is director emeritus of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, professor of Holocaust studies at Hebrew University Jerusalem, recipient of the Israel Prize, and a member of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He is a long-time supporter of the Center, serving as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2000 and 2004 and delivering many public lectures at Clark. In his words, Bauer “stood at the cradle” as the Center was established, sharing ideas and advice with founding Director Debórah Dwork and delivering the convocation address at a symposium to mark the opening of Cohen-Lasry House. “I’m sort of the godfather in a way,” Bauer says.

Bauer taught the undergraduate course “The Holocaust in Historical Perspective: History of the Holocaust in a Genocide Context” and a graduate seminar on “The Holocaust in Eastern Europe: New Perspectives.” Both courses were demanding of his students, who appreciated Bauer’s high standards.

“Dr. Bauer’s class is truly one of the more involving seminars I’ve ever taken,” says graduate student Jeff Koerber.

“Yehuda Bauer’s concern for his students goes beyond classroom learning,” adds graduate student Lotta Stone, who was a teaching assistant for his undergraduate course. “He strives to educate them as world citi-

zens, to impart to them the dangers of unquestioningly following an authority figure.”

Bauer’s graduate course dealt in part with his current area of research — the impact of the Holocaust on small Jewish townships in what used to be Eastern Europe and is now western Belarus and western Ukraine. Bauer is currently writing a monograph about these townships to fill in a large gap of knowledge.

“Except for one book about one of these places, there is nothing,” he says. “I am uncovering things that nobody has done and in an area which is tremendously important because, geographically, that region produced much of present-day Jewish life and culture.”

Bauer is driven to teach the Holocaust because “it’s the most important event in Jewish history, certainly in the 20th century and probably all together.” In addition, Bauer asserts that with today’s more advanced technological means of killing, genocide has become a universal threat that needs to be understood.

“To my mind, unless something is done pretty quickly, Darfur stands between Rwanda and the next genocide.”

For this reason, Bauer will continue to return to the Center to share his expertise with students, faculty and the public.

“This is a great venture,” he says. “This center for Holocaust and genocide studies that grants a Ph.D. in these areas is needed.” □

“Yehuda Bauer’s concern for his students goes beyond classroom learning. He strives to educate them as world citizens, to impart to them the dangers of unquestioningly following an authority figure.”

— graduate student Lotta Stone

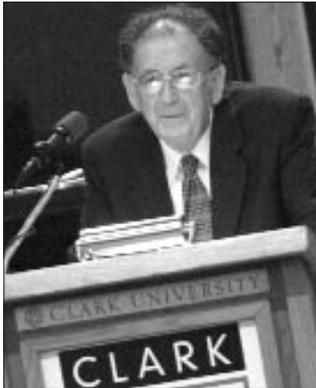
## “Radical Islam”

The Center was pleased to present Dr. Yehuda Bauer’s lecture, “Radical Islam,” on 9 September 2004 to a packed Tilton Hall in the Higgins University Center. A world-renowned Holocaust scholar and longtime friend of the Center (see page 3), Bauer served as the Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust History this past year.

Gratified — if surprised — that more than 300 people weathered the remnants of Hurricane Francis to listen to the sad story of international terrorism, “instead of going to a dance or staying home and watching television,” Bauer moved quickly to his point: distinguishing “Radical Islam” from Islam.

While Islam has been at the center of the monotheistic world for centuries, Radical Islam is a modern invention born in 1928. Fueled by a deadly ideology based on an extremist interpretation of Sunni Islam, Radical Islam divides the world into two parties: the party of Allah and the party of Satan. Bauer noted that similar to Nazism and Soviet Communism — two other dangerous ideologies which took hold during the 20th century — Radical Islam opposes democracy; seeks to abolish and control

all small nations; attacks civilizations of the West; and aims to attack Jews. Radical Islam also targets non-radical Muslims and the rise of nationalist governments in the Islamic world.



Dr. Yehuda Bauer, the Center’s 2004-05 Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust History

“Radical Islam is not Islam,” Bauer emphasized. “Just as the Church of the Aryan Nations was a mutation of Christianity, so is Radical Islam a distortion of this great world religion.”

After outlining the causes of Radical Islam and presenting the threat that this deadly ideology poses to world peace, Bauer suggested ways to combat it. Terror, he emphasized, cannot be eliminated by force of arms.

“The American government is barking up the wrong tree,” he said, referring to the current situation in the Iraq. “You can weaken the terrorists with force, but it won’t end. If you get rid of Bin Laden, there will be 10 more like him.” Bauer received thunderous applause for this statement.

Instead of force, Bauer said, we need to treat non-radical Muslims “as our brothers, rather than our enemies.” According to Bauer, before resorting to force, we should “flood the Moslem world with propaganda that says Radical Islam is a distortion of Islam.” He also recommended the recruitment of non-radical Muslims, major economic investment in the infrastructures that would improve ordinary people’s lives, and forming political alliances in the Islamic world.

Bauer’s deep analysis of Radical Islam gripped the audience. Edwin Bruell, a survivor of both Auschwitz and Buchenwald who regularly attends the Center’s lectures, especially appreciated Bauer’s talk. “It was one of the best lectures yet!” Bruell said. □

“It was one of the best lectures yet!”

— Edwin Bruell, survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald who regularly attends Center events



Israeli scholar  
Galia Glasner

## “Beyond the Politicization of the Holocaust”

Israeli scholar **Galia Glasner** enriched the Center community with an illuminating and provocative discussion of her work on 20 September 2004. The event was held in the Kent Seminar Room at Cohen-Lasry House. A graduate of Ben Gurion University in Israel, Glasner received the Deborah and Michael Goldhirsch Excellency Award from the Ben Gurion Heritage Center for her master’s thesis, “The Memory of the Holocaust in Israel: The Story of Eliezer Gruenbaum as a Kapo.” In her introductory remarks, Professor Debórah Dwork explained that Glasner’s doctoral work sat at the “intersection of politics, literature, and the Holocaust in Israeli society.” Glasner is currently pursuing post-doctoral research under the mentorship of Holocaust survivor, author, and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel at Boston University.

Glasner discussed “Beyond the Politicization of the Holocaust: The Case of K. Tzetnik and the Israeli Society,” with members of the Center community and Clark’s History Department. “K. Tzetnik” was the pseudonym adopted by Polish Holocaust survivor Yehiel Feiner De-Nur. He was one of the first to publish novels about the Holocaust in Israel in the 1950s. His best-known work is the multi-part autobiographical novel, *A Chronicle of a Jewish Family in the Twentieth Century*.

As the intense discussion after Glasner’s presentation revealed, the controversy that has always surrounded K. Tzetnik swirls still. The brutality and sexual violence in his work has drawn the criticism of some Holocaust scholars. Others question his “other planet” idiom, which depicts the Holocaust as “out of this world, beyond description.” Still others claim that the clear Zionist ideological tone of his work promoted

nationalism and Zionism as a conclusion to the Holocaust. Possibly the greatest controversy centers on his personally funded mass distribution of his novels in public high schools in the 1990s. Was this an attempt to present himself as the representative of the Israeli memory of the Holocaust, to justify Israeli security practices, or to educate the next generation about the emotional impact of the Holocaust on survivors? Glasner argued that K. Tzetnik did all three as he “broke the dichotomy of how people deal with Holocaust memory.”

“In her sophisticated analysis of K. Tzetnik’s passion for paradoxical truths, Glasner posed inspiring questions to Holocaust and genocide scholars,” said Strassler Professor Thomas Kuehne.

Well-known in Israel, K. Tzetnik is remembered in the United States as the witness at the Adolf Eichmann trial who fainted while delivering his testimony on the “other planet” of Auschwitz. □

### The Center in the Mail

*“I congratulate you on your most impressive extension [with the inclusion of Genocide Studies] and on the continuing success of your remarkable work, of which I hear praise from many quarters!”*

Sir Martin Gilbert, C.B.E., D.Litt., to the Center community

*“You’re doing wonderful work. I’m especially impressed by your graduate, Dr. Christine van der Zanden. I heard her speak at the AHO Winter Seminar.”*

Wilda K. Kaylor, associate director, National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, Seton Hall University

*continued on page 6*

*“Glasner brings to light interesting issues on how future generations will read, feel, and interpret survivor testimony.”*

— Dr. Michael Good, parent of a Clark student, author of *The Search for Major Plagge*

*“In her sophisticated analysis of K. Tzetnik’s passion for paradoxical truths, Glasner posed inspiring questions to Holocaust and genocide scholars.”*

— Strassler Professor Thomas Kuehne

## Paul Goldberger: “Up From Zero”



**Julian Bonder** (left), architect for the renovation of and addition to Cohen-Lasry House, talks with **Paul Goldberger**.

**Paul Goldberger**, architecture critic for *The New Yorker* and dean of Parsons School of Design, presented a riveting public lecture in Clark’s Tilton Hall on 28 September 2004, on his new book, *Up From Zero: Politics, Architecture, and the Rebuilding of New York*. Discussing the rebuilding of Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center towers and surrounding buildings that were destroyed in terrorist attacks on 11 September 2004, Goldberger addressed the proposed designs for the site, as well as the politics and players behind the decision-making process.

Ground Zero, Goldberger reminded the audience, is much more than the first great urban design challenge of the 21st century. The loss of human life at the site eclipses any envisioned building, park, or memorial. If the Murrow Federal Building in Oklahoma City, bombed in 1995, and Potsdamer Platz in Berlin, bombed during World War II, are comparable, Ground Zero presents a unique set of challenges. The central question is: How to rebuild that site? “There is no road map to tell a city what to do when its tallest buildings are suddenly gone,” said Goldberger.

Many individuals and agencies deciding the future of Ground Zero—not least, the grieving families of those killed on 11 September—have reached a consensus. In Goldberger’s view, however, a vital piece of the planning process was skipped: thinking through what to do at the site. The first “official” proposals, unveiled in July 2002, called for office space and a park-like memorial; no other activities or functions were considered. Also missing was more direct

input from the public.

The current designs, developed by Polish-born architect Daniel Liebeskind, the son of Holocaust survivors, in conjunction with American architect David Childs, maintain office space as the primary use but have branched out to some extent, with the Freedom Tower as the centerpiece. They include a performing arts center and an expressive transportation terminal, the latter designed by Spanish architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava. They do not, Goldberger noted, address the need for more housing in the neighborhood, for which many New Yorkers had hoped. He also praised the winning proposal for the memorial, designed by architects Michael Arad and Peter Walker, which includes 200-square-foot sunken voids bounded by cascading sheets of water demarcating the footprints of the towers.

Although it will be several more years before the present plans are realized, Goldberger published his account now to “document the transition between trauma and rebuilding.”

Earlier in the day, Goldberger met with the graduate students in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program. Their wide-ranging discussion covered types of memorials, authenticity of sites of historic events, and the relationships between memorials and museums that commemorate the same events. “They taught *me*,” Goldberger announced as he emerged from the seminar. “Those students know a lot, and they think about what they know.” □



**Paul Goldberger** (left), architecture critic for *The New Yorker* and dean of Parsons School of Design, with **Debórah Dwork** and **Clark President John Bassett**

“There is no road map to tell a city what to do when its tallest buildings are suddenly gone.”

— **Paul Goldberger**, author of *Up From Zero: Politics, Architecture, and the Rebuilding of New York*

## Dorothy Kaufmann: *Edith Thomas: A Passion for Resistance*

The Strassler Family Center celebrated the achievements of Clark professor **Dorothy Kaufmann** at a luncheon on 28 September 2004. Pleased to have the opportunity to, as Debórah Dwork put it, “honor one of our own,” professors and graduate and undergraduate students gathered to hear how Kaufmann had come to write *Edith Thomas: A Passion for Resistance*, as well as excerpts from it.



Clark Professor  
**Dorothy Kaufmann**,  
author of *Edith  
Thomas: A Passion  
for Resistance*

ate students gathered to hear how Kaufmann had come to write *Edith Thomas: A Passion for Resistance*, as well as excerpts from it.

Kaufmann’s interest in France and its women writers developed when she was young. A professor in Clark’s Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, Kaufmann is the daughter of German-Jewish refugees who lived in Queens from the time of the family’s immigration to the United States in 1936. She recalled that

while she was growing up, her father often portrayed an “idealistic picture of France.”

Later in life, Kaufmann became acquainted with the work of French novelist, journalist, and woman of letters Edith Thomas. Thomas is an intriguing figure for the historian and the biographer. Born in 1909, she was vocal in her opposition to Franco during the Spanish Civil War, participated in the resistance to Nazism in collaborationist Vichy France, and opposed the Algerian War. Between 1942 and 1949, Thomas identified herself as a communist, but later renounced this affiliation. An historian by training, Thomas spent most of her adult life working at the National Archives in France. Shaped by ideology and ethical values, she recorded her life’s memories in eight handwritten

notebooks, edited by Kaufmann, which contributed substantially to Kaufmann’s successful completion of her biography.

As Thomas died in 1970, Kaufman interviewed family members and intimate friends, who offered important insights into her character and motivation. Her writings indicate a variety of perspectives on the Occupation and the possibilities of reaction in such a situation.

At Dwork’s request, Kaufmann treated the Center community to her eloquent prose. A single passage brought to life the passions and perspectives of this unusual woman. □

### The Center in the Mail

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*“Reading your review [of ‘The Birthday Party’] was very touching, especially since you were able to touch upon some of the points the filmmakers were attempting to convey to the audience.”*

Roy Govshovitz, a producer of the film “The Birthday Party” to graduate student Lotta Stone about her review of the film that was published in the *Boston Jewish Film Festival Program Book*

*“Thank you for speaking on July 6, 2004, with participants in the Museum’s Summer Institute, Meeting Hate with Humanity: Life During the Holocaust. You will see from reading the teachers’ comments, how important your lecture was to their professional growth. Through them, you will affect hundreds, probably thousands, of students.”*

Elizabeth Edelstein, assistant director of education, Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, to Debórah Dwork

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Shaped by ideology and ethical values, she [Edith Thomas] recorded her life’s memories in eight handwritten notebooks, edited by Kaufmann, which contributed substantially to Kaufmann’s successful completion of her biography.

## An interview with Gijs de Vries, Europe's counter-terrorism chief



**Gijs de Vries,**  
Counter-Terrorism  
Coordinator for the  
European Union

The Center was honored to host **Gijs de Vries**, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator for the European Union, for his only public speaking engagement in the United States last fall. De Vries presented “Counter-Terrorism Action and Human Rights Protection” on 17 October 2004 to a packed crowd in Clark’s Tilton Hall.

“It is with pride and humility that I stand before you today,” de Vries said in his opening remarks. “Pride because I can share a platform, having been invited by Debórah, who has built her institute into the preeminent in its field in this country, and a leading one in the world. Humility because in the face of horrors that our world has known and that we still face today in so many parts of the world, we, the lucky ones, we the ones who are not physically threatened, we have to act with a great sense of humility in the face of those who do suffer.”

While visiting the Center, de Vries spoke with graduate student Tiberiu Galis.

**Galis:** Why did you choose Clark as the only place to lecture during this trip?

**de Vries:** The idea of this lecture was born in a discussion with a very close friend, Professor Debórah Dwork. I am also a firm believer in the fact that if the European Union and United States are to work together in combating terrorism, they need to be familiar with one another. This is why this is my third visit to the Center, a place of excellence in learning and research.

**Galis:** How do academic research centers contribute to your field of counter-terrorism?

**de Vries:** Academic research is essential to deepen our understanding of the background to terrorism and to analyzing and developing best practices in counter-terrorist policy. Academic research and policy development are two different foci of the same effort and they can only benefit from regular interaction. Only a concerted effort in these foci can help fight the pluriform phenomenon that terrorism is. Terrorism is a label for highly diversified phenomena that are linked by the criminal nature but that still remain different. For example, terrorism in the Philippines is specific to the conditions in the Philippines and is greatly different from ETA or terrorism in Chechnya.

**Galis:** You were recently appointed as the European Council’s special adviser to Javier Solana on counter terrorism. How do you plan to shape this new position during your time in it?

**de Vries:** I act within the competences of the European Union, which is a confederation with central institutions exercising a legislative role. In Europe, the job of tracking down terrorists is left to national security institutions. My position is to facilitate the development of a compatible legal framework within the Union. We aim to streamline the decentralised nature of the effort through a plan of action that includes 100 prospective measures and sets priorities. Two priorities are of paramount importance: fighting the financing of terrorism and protecting the transparency of information. Nevertheless, Europe cannot be safe unless other countries help it to be safe. We are in this together. □

“The Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies offers preeminent education in essential areas of specialization.”

— Gijs de Vries, Counter-Terrorism Coordinator  
for the European Union

## Julian Bonder: “Memory|Works”



**Julian Bonder**, the architect who designed the renovation of and addition to Cohen-Lasry House, with **Debórah Dwork**



Cohen-Lasry House, designed by Julian Bonder

**Julian Bonder**, architect and Associate Professor at Roger Williams University’s School of Architecture in Bristol, R.I., presented an illustrated lecture on the relationship between social memory and architecture at a luncheon on 29 November 2004. The Center offered a warm welcome to Bonder, the architect whose renovation of and addition to Cohen-Lasry House — the physical home for the Center — has won six awards.

In his presentation, Bonder discussed how society frames and preserves the memory of celebrated and catastrophic events through the creation of public sites of memory where people make a connection with the past. These museums,

monuments, and memorials function as places of mourning and closure. They also spark dialogue and new beginnings.

Among the projects Bonder discussed were those commemorating the events of 11 September 2001. These included a memorial in Hoboken, N.J., for which Bonder’s and Polish-born artist Krzysztof Wodiczko’s design was among the four finalists, and the commemoration activities of his architecture students at Syracuse University and the University of Nebraska, where Bonder held the Hyde Chair in 2003-04. Everyone was as surprised as they were pleased when Bonder turned to the renovation of Cohen-Lasry House. Those who use a building every day rarely have the opportunity to learn what the architect imagined and envisioned when he drew his designs. Bonder brought his experience with Cohen-Lasry House to bear on two projects in his native Argentina: a Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires, and a memorial to 86 people killed in the 1994

bombing of the Association Mutuel Isrealita Argentina, the main center for Jewish life in Buenos Aires. His current project, again in collaboration with Wodiczko, is a very large, complex, and highly significant public monument in Nantes, France, to commemorate the French abolition of slavery and, at the same time, the persistence of slavery today. □



View from the Rose Library at Cohen-Lasry House

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## Symposium: “Democracy, the Economy, and the Middle Class”

The Center was privileged to co-host a symposium on “Democracy, the Economy, and the Middle Class” with Proventus AB, a Swedish firm that invests in companies in need of change. The interdisciplinary event brought together scholars from various fields and business practitioners from around the world.

The symposium opened on 12 November 2004 with a welcome dinner in the Center’s Rose Library. Daniel Sachs, CEO of Proventus, discussed the interdependent issues of democracy, demography, and economy and how debate on these issues in the business and industry communities all too often focuses on short-term matters. This symposium, Sachs said, offered an opportunity to take a long-term perspective and an interdisciplinary approach which would, he hoped, prompt “new discoveries in the space between boxes.”

Anne Boschini (Stockholm Univ.) opened the first session on “The Economy and Democracy” with a discussion of the gendered demographics of the middle class; Steve Grossman (president, Mass Envelope Plus, and the National Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, 1997-99) spoke about the need to revitalize participatory democracy; and Yehuda Bauer (Robert Weil D.V.P.; see page 2) discussed the challenge to democracy posed by radical Islam.

Focusing on historical perspectives, Peggy Anderson (U.C., Berkeley) discussed major issues in the rise and fall of democracies; and Michael Miller (Univ. of Miami) elucidated the effects of globalization on democracy and the economy.

In the afternoon, participants explored “Breakdowns.”

Bernd Widdig (director of the MIT-Germany Program) tackled the historical example of Weimar Germany, looking at inflation and the erosion of the middle class. Sheri Berman (Barnard College) analyzed the Weimar German middle class and its susceptibility to Nazi ideology.

Moving to contemporary democracies, Richard Gunther (Ohio State Univ.) discussed legitimacy, (dis)satisfaction, and disaffection, and their effects on democratic support and voting patterns; and Ted Robert Gurr (Distinguished University Professor [emeritus], Univ. of Maryland) talked about the rise of xenophobia in democracies and the role of elites in maintaining a democratic state.

Emerging democracies claimed the floor the next day. Barbara Harff (U.S. Naval Academy) stressed the need for a more careful analysis of the necessary conditions for democracy, especially in the context of the Middle East. Eric Gordy (Clark) used the case of Serbia to illustrate how both old and new democracies usually fail to meet the expectations of their citizens. Simon Payaslian (Clark) addressed both themes in his observations on the obstacles to Armenia’s emerging democracy.

With more questions raised than answers adduced, the symposium closed with remarks by Robert Weil (founder of Proventus AB) who sought mechanisms for stabilizing democracy, and suggested that we look closely at the role of culture to that end.

Each panel sparked lively debate and discussion, new ideas and new perspectives. And that, as co-hosts Sachs and Dwork observed with satisfaction, was the point of the enterprise. □

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## Collaboration brings two art exhibits to fruition: “A Child Artist in Terezín: Witness to the Holocaust”

Under the sponsorship of His Excellency Dr. Martin Palous, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross collaborated for the first time, producing two extraordinary exhibits. “A Child Artist in Terezín: Witness to the Holocaust” was on display in the Rehm Library at the College of the Holy Cross from 19 January to 18 March 2005. “Forging a New Life: The Jewish Experience in Central and Eastern Europe on the Cusp of a New Millennium” was on display at the Center from 16 February to 25 August 2005 (see next page). Together, the two exhibits chronicled Jewish life with a mixture of old and new, despair and hope, destruction and rebirth.

“A Child Artist in Terezín: Witness to the Holocaust” was made possible with the support of the Honorable

Consul General of the Czech Republic-Philadelphia, Peter Rafaeli, to honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and of Terezín in particular. The exhibit of powerful drawings and watercolors by Helga Weisssová-Hosková



The Hon. Consul General of the Czech Republic **Peter Rafaeli** (left), the **Rev. Michael McFarland**, president of the College of the Holy Cross, and **Iva Reisinger**, director of the Czech Center New York, at the art exhibit “A Child Artist in Terezín: Witness to the Holocaust”

depicted Jewish life at that time and in that place.

On 17 December 1941, a 12-year-old Hosková was transported from Prague to Terezín with her parents. Among the limited luggage that she was allowed to bring, Hosková packed her paints and brushes. From 1941 through 1944, she created a journal of drawings and paintings depicting life in the camp. Hosková and her mother were deported to Auschwitz on 14 October 1944, and then to work camps at Freiberg and Mauthausen. Hosková and her mother survived, and they returned to Prague. Today, Hosková continues to reside in Prague, working as an artist.

Hosková’s drawings and paintings allowed visitors a glimpse of Jewish life in a concentration camp during the Holocaust, and they serve, too, to honor the memory of all Holocaust victims. □

### The Center in the Mail

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*“Thanks again for inviting me to the conference [Democracy, Economy and the Middle Class]. It was a wonderful experience.”*

*Sheri Berman, Associate Professor, Barnard College, and participant in the conference co-hosted by the Center and Proventus AB*

*“I am back in Cambridge in my office and wanted to thank you for a superb conference. I truly enjoyed the exchange with all the other participants and learned a lot over the last two days.”*

*Bernd Widdig, Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Germany Program and Associate Director of MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives*

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The exhibit of powerful drawings and watercolors by Helga Weisssová-Hosková depicted Jewish life at that time and in that place.

## Collaborative art exhibit: “Forging A New Life”

From 16 February to 25 August 2005, the Center hosted “Forging A New Life: The Jewish Experience in Central and Eastern Europe on the Cusp of a New Millennium,” which showcased the work of renowned Czech photographer, Karel Cudlín.

Cudlín is best known as a personal photographer for the former Czech president and Nobel laureate Václav Havel, and for his distinctly expressive photographs of various ethnic and social groups. The images in this exhibit illustrate the revival of Jewish life in post-Communist countries and offer a suggestion of its future. Taken in the Czech Republic and Ukraine from 1990 through 2000, the images depict the celebration of festivals and holidays, and the restoration of community buildings and cemeteries.

At the opening reception on 16 February 2005, Consul General of New York Aleš Pospíšil remarked, “Despite all of Cudlín’s successes, he hasn’t changed. He is a nice, modest person for whom I have great respect.”



Center Program Manager **Dr. Tatyana Macaulay** (left); the Hon. Consul general of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia **Peter Rafaeli**; **Monika Koblerova**, deputy director of the Czech Center in New York; the Hon. Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York **Dr. Aleš Pospíšil**; **Iva Reisinger**, director of the Czech Center in New York; and photographer **Karel Cudlín**

Cudlín’s talk and slide presentation in the Center’s Rose Library treated students, faculty, and community members to images encompassing Jewish life in post-Communist Eastern Europe, Czech and Slovak Roma, young Soviet troops, Czech soldiers, Ukrainian laborers, Belarussian steel factory workers, refugees, Holocaust survivors, and the former Czech president, Václav Havel.

Photographed in their natural environment, Cudlín’s subjects engage in daily, seasonal, and/or holiday activities. He spends weeks, months, even years socializing with the families and communities that he photographs. The photographs become a story, detailing a particular stage of life experienced by the subject.

Modest about his work, Cudlín was “surprised at how many people came to the opening.” But those who attended the reception were certainly not surprised at the interest in meeting such a renowned artist and learning about his work. Cudlín expressed his gratitude to the Center for providing a beautiful space to showcase his images and to Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, who planned and organized the exhibit with great care and attention. As part of his visit to Clark, Cudlín spoke to photography classes taught by professors Stephen DiRado and Kirk Jalbert.

Months after the opening, cars bearing license plates from all over New England and Southern Canada continued to draw up to the Center. Drivers and passengers emerged, Mapquest directions in hand. □

*This exhibit was made possible by a generous gift from Sidney and Rosalie Rose and was organized in association with the Czech Center New York.*

“Seeing photos of Jewish life in Eastern Europe today and then the photo in the library of my own family killed in Poland during the Holocaust is a touching experience.”

— Sidney Rose, longtime, dedicated supporter of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

“I thought the exhibit was very emotional. I was amazed to see that after so much destruction, these communities still have the strength to rebuild.”

— A Clark student in Professor Kirk Jalbert’s Introduction to Photography class

## “A Survivor’s Perspective”

On 16 March 2005, the Center’s Rose Library was crowded with students and community members eager to learn more about the genocide in Rwanda in general and Alain Ndagijimana’s personal experiences, in particular. Ndagijimana’s lecture, “A Survivor’s Perspective on Precursors to the Genocide in Rwanda,” was part of the Center’s ongoing Especially for Students lecture series, mounted in collaboration with other departments and programs at Clark.



**Alain Ndagijimana,**  
survivor of the  
Rwandan genocide

Born to a Tutsi mother and a Hutu father, Ndagijimana recalled the integrated community in which

he lived before the genocide of 1994, which killed 800,000 Rwandans in 100 days. And he described the point when he realized that he was a potential target of the spreading violence. He remembered the day Rwandan President Habyarimana’s plane was shot down over Kigali, as well as the horror of blockades set up in the streets. And he discussed the powerful role of the radio in inciting Rwandans to turn against their neighbors.

Ndagijimana’s survival depended upon the good will of others: aid he received from Hutu friends in his flight from Rwanda to Zambia, and assistance from the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in 2000 to immigrate to the United States.

Since his arrival in this country, Ndagijimana has earned an associate’s degree at Qunisigamond College

and a bachelor’s degree in business administration and finance from Fitchburg State College.

Answering questions from the audience, Ndagijimana also talked about the process of Gacaca, or local village courts, which followed the genocide and continue today. □

*The program was co-sponsored by Clark’s Peace Studies Program and the History, Government, Sociology, and Psychology departments.*



**Alain Ndagijimana**  
(left) with  
Clark Professor  
**Srinivasan Sitaraman**

### The Center in the Mail

*continued from page 10*

*“Your article is just superb, by far the best I have ever received since I took this post five or six years ago.”*

John Calabrese, Book Review Editor for the *Middle East Journal*, to Simon Payaslian regarding his book reviews

*“Thank you so much for your involvement in the JFR Summer Institute this past week...Thank you for taking time out of your schedule and life for us middle and high school teachers. It means a lot that esteemed scholars such as yourself care about our work.”*

Tyson Rahmeier, teacher, Holy Innocents Episcopal School, to Debórah Dwork

*continued on page 36*

Born to a Tutsi mother and a Hutu father, Ndagijimana recalled the integrated community in which he lived before the genocide of 1994, which killed 800,000 Rwandans in 100 days.

## “Beauty, Race, and Democracy in the 20th Century”



Thomas Kuehne

The Center was proud to host a public lecture by its own Professor Thomas Kuehne on 6 April 2005. “Beauty, Race, and Democracy in the 20th Century” was Kuehne’s first public lecture for the Center since joining the Clark faculty in fall 2004

as the Strassler Family Professor in the Study of Holocaust History. The event carried an air of celebration as the Center community gathered in Clark’s Tilton Hall to hear this outstanding scholar.

Kuehne’s work and research is concerned with the relation of war, genocide, and society; with the long-term traditions of the political culture of Central Europe; and, above all, with the problem of locating the Holocaust and Nazi Germany in the social and cultural history of the 20th century. Kuehne is especially interested in synthesizing new approaches to the history of mass violence. He has organized conferences and edited several essay collections to advance scholarly

discussion on cultural, gender, military, and political history, and he is engaged in establishing



Thomas Kuehne with Debórah Dwork

and improving the institutional and moral frameworks of these fields. His books include the award-winning *Dreiklassenwahlrecht und Wahlkultur in Preussen 1867-1914: Landtagswahlen zwischen korporativer Tradition und Politischem* (1994), and a *Handbuch der Wahlen zum Preussischen Abgeordnetenhaus 1867-1918: Wahlergebnisse, Wahlbuendnisse und Wahlkandidaten* (1994), as well as many edited or co-edited volumes.

Kuehne’s lecture connected the concepts of beauty and racism in a review of 20th-century dynamics. The function of beauty as a form of capital in present social interactions was the point of departure for a fascinating mapping of the way in which contemporary perceptions of beauty emerged during the 20th century. Physical beauty was presented as mattering a lot more now than in the past, concerning more people than ever, and defined much more narrowly than before. Kuehne’s analysis unfolded in the argument that racism, democracy, and consumerism link tightly. And the present obsession with the perfect, beautiful body in our democratic societies was seen by Kuehne as exactly the result of the blend of modern racism and modern consumerism. He concluded that human beauty is never solely about aesthetic harmony, but more about social distinction, human rivalry, and power struggle. Hence, the idea of beauty reflects the dynamics and the perceived threats of this world.

The audience was fascinated by Kuehne’s presentation and his work. Gripped and challenged by his talk, the audience asked many questions and offered a range of comments. □

Kuehne’s analysis unfolded in the argument that racism, democracy, and consumerism link tightly.

And the present obsession with the perfect, beautiful body in our democratic societies was seen by Kuehne as exactly the result of the blend of modern racism and modern consumerism.

## Linkages

Each year, the Center widens its network of mutually beneficial relationships with other institutions dedicated to research and education about the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. These linkages help to disseminate the scholarly expertise of Center faculty and provide the Center's students with a wide variety of research, public service, and internship opportunities.

### International linkages

The Center continues to build an international reputation for academic excellence and innovation. The exhibit of photographs by Karel Cudlín (see page 11), organized by the Center's Program Manager Dr. Tatyana Macaulay and hosted at the Center in spring and summer 2005, put the Center on the intellectual map of the Czech diplomatic corps in the United States. Czech Ambassador Dr. Martin Palous, the Hon.



**Debórah Dwork** (left), with **Katarzyna Szyper** from Siemianowice, Poland, **Jonathan Gruber**, director of education at the JFR, **Roza Grzywacz** from Oswiecim, Poland, the JFR's Executive Vice President **Stanlee Stahl**, and **Wojciech Laskowski** from Lochow, Poland, at the JFR's 2004 Summer Institute for Teachers.

Czech Consul General of Philadelphia Peter Rafaeli and the Hon. Czech Consul General of New York Dr. Aleš Pospíšil supported the exhibit and attended the opening reception at the Center on 16 February 2005. The exhibit was the result of the Center's first collaboration with the Czech Center New York, a cultural institution which disseminates Czech culture in the United States. The Jewish Museum of Prague, especially its director Dr. Leo Pavlat and curator Michaela Hajkova, also provided crucial support for the exhibit. In addition, Dr. Arno Parik, an expert on Czech Jewish art at the Jewish Museum of Prague, participated as a lecturer with a talk on artists and painters in the Terezín ghetto for the Center's 2005 Prague/Terezín Program for undergraduates. Macaulay's ties to the Czech community, both here and abroad, were instrumental in developing these connections to the Czech diplomatic corps, the Czech Center New York, and the Jewish Museum of Prague.

### Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

The JFR and the Center enjoy a longstanding relationship grounded in their mutual dedication to providing superior education about the Holocaust, whether to university students or middle and high school teachers,



(back row, from left) **Monika Koblerova**, deputy director of the Czech Center in New York; graduate student **Lotta Stone**; graduate student **Jeff Koerber**; the Hon. Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York **Dr. Aleš Pospíšil**; the Hon. Consul General of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia **Peter Rafaeli**; graduate student **Tiberiu Galis**; graduate student **Ilana Offenberger**; **Iva Reisinger**, director of the Czech Center in New York; and graduate student **Robin Barry**; (front row, from left) graduate student **JulieAnne Mercier-Foint**, graduate student **Naama Haviv**, and photographer **Karel Cudlín**



Strassler Professor **Thomas Kuehne** talks with **Alanna Rosenberg**, the JFR's program associate in education, and **Wojciech Smolens**, senior English guide at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum who was a guest of the JFR at the JFR's 2005 advanced winter seminar.



**Debórah Dwork** (center) with Professor **Jane Denny** (left) of Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, N.J., a participant in the JFR's 2005 advanced winter seminar, and **Hannah Waldman**, a JFR trustee.

or Holocaust museum and memorial personnel. Debórah Dwork, whose work with the JFR spans nearly a decade, is in her second year on the JFR's Board of Trustees; she now chairs the Board's Education Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. Dwork's book for the JFR, *Voices and Views: A History of the Holocaust*, continues to serve as the core text for the JFR's national education program. The JFR launched that program with an annual Summer Institute for Teachers held at the Center in June 2000, and Dwork teaches in the Summer Institute (now held at Columbia University) every year. Dwork and Strassler Professor Thomas Kuehne also taught in the JFR's advanced winter seminar for "graduates" of the Summer Institute in January 2005.

### **Brandeis University — Near Eastern and Judaic Studies**

At the suggestion of NEJS department chair Marc Brettler, Dwork and he drafted a partnership agreement, which their respective institutions ratified, to enable NEJS students to take courses at the Center,

and vice versa. We welcome this on-going sharing of expertise and cross-fertilization. Our doors are open!

### **American Jewish Committee**

When Bob Goodkind, friend of the Center and to Debórah, was elected president of the AJC, Dwork asked him what she could give to the organization in his honor. "Your expertise," he replied. He appointed her to the AJC's Anti-Semitism Task Force, thus forging a new connection between the Center and this important organization. Founded in 1906 by American Jews concerned about pogroms aimed at the Jewish population of Russia, the AJC promotes pluralistic and democratic societies in which all minorities are protected. The AJC's goals in fighting antisemitism and Holocaust denial dovetail with the Center's mission of developing and disseminating scholarship about the Holocaust, which is the ultimate defense against Holocaust denial. Dwork and the Center community look forward to fruitful work with the AJC.

### **Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**

The Center's ties to the MJH remain warm and strong. Dwork continued to serve on the MJH's Academic Review Committee this year, providing advice and expertise for the Museum's forthcoming exhibition on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, curated by Yitzhak Mais. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching in the MJH 2004 Summer Institute for Teachers, *Meeting Hate with Humanity: Life During the Holocaust*, and, according to program manager Elizabeth Edelstein, her lecture on "Jewish Life During the Holocaust" provided a cornerstone for the summer institute.

### Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Thomas Kuehne, Strassler Family Professor for the Study of Holocaust History, delivered a lecture at Ohio State University's Mershon Center for International Security Studies on 20 April 2005. The Mershon Center works to advance scholarly study and intellectual understanding of national security in a global context. Kuehne was invited to give a talk on "Male Bonding and Shame Culture: Hitler's Soldiers." His lecture was part of the "Loving War" Speakers Series.

### Henry J. Leir Center, Luxembourg

Simon Payaslian, the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, organized a conference in October 2004 at the Leir Center, a hub of international study associated with Clark and the College of the Holy Cross. The conference, *The Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the European Union*, brought together scholars from Armenia and France to examine the economic exchange between Armenia and the European Union and the implications for economic development, democratization, and modernization in Armenia. The conference also explored whether Armenia should join the European Union. The lectures and ensuing discussions were so thought-provoking that Payaslian hopes to develop the content of the conference into a book.

### College of the Holy Cross

The exhibit "A Child Artist in Terezín: Witness to the Holocaust, Drawings by Helga Weissová-Hosková, Terezín, 1941-1944" (see page 10) was the result of the Center's first collaboration with the College of the Holy Cross, its Center for Religion, Ethics, and

Culture, and its Center for Interdisciplinary and Special Studies. Dr. Thomas Doughton, a professor at the College of the Holy Cross, was especially instrumental in this collaboration and worked closely with Tatyana Macaulay to launch the exhibit.

### Worcester Public Schools

On 8 October 2004 the Center hosted 30 history and social science teachers from Worcester public schools for a workshop on *Famine as a Political Tool?* Clark Professor Valerie Sperling spoke on "Denial, Dissimulation, and Death: Famines in Communist Party-Run Regimes," a presentation on the Ukrainian and Chinese famines. College of the Holy Cross Professor Mary Conley presented a lecture on "Historical Approaches to Irish and Indian Famines; from Ecological Inevitability to Political Intentionality," and the video, "The Irish Famine." The afternoon concluded with a discussion of teaching methods and materials led by third-year doctoral student (and teaching veteran) Lotta Stone. The workshop was organized by Nathaniel Mencow, a dedicated Center volunteer and education coordinator for Worcester Public Schools, and Tatyana Macaulay.

Classes from Worcester's Burncoat Middle School visited the Center in April 2005 to view the Cudlín exhibit and drawings by Helga Weissová-Hosková, from the exhibit at the College of the Holy Cross, which were on display in the Center's Kent Room. The students had just finished reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

### Local Armenian community

Committed to the development of strong connections with the Armenian community in the Greater Worcester

"She [Dwork] makes it clear and easy to understand, and, boy, does she make her case. It was partly what she said about the hidden children and children with a star that made me decide to do a program for kids."

— journalist Linda Ellerbee, host of *Nick News*



area, Simon Payaslian organized a special event at Clark to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The event was held in Clark's Tilton Hall in conjunction with the Armenian churches in Worcester. In keeping with the Center's mission of broader public education, Payaslian was happy to be interviewed about the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on WTAG radio and New England Cable Network's "Worcester News Tonight."

### Teaching through other media: PBS and Nickelodeon

Dwork helped educate audiences of all ages this year through her appearance on very diverse television programs about the Holocaust. An interview with Dwork appeared in a segment of "Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State," a six-hour television series based extensively on her co-authored (with Robert Jan van Pelt) book, *Auschwitz*. The series aired on PBS stations nationwide in January 2005, in honor of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. A co-production of California Public Television affiliate KCET and the BBC, the series presented a chronological portrait of Auschwitz — site of the greatest mass murder in history. Host Linda Ellerbee's interview with Dwork and John Roth, Edward J. Sexton Professor of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College, appeared at the end of the third program of the series, "Factories of Death (March 1942-March 1943)" on 26 January 2005. Dwork's comments focused on the impact of the Holocaust on the lives of Jewish children. Her full comments are on the program's Web site. Visit [www.pbs.org/auschwitz/understanding](http://www.pbs.org/auschwitz/understanding) and select the link to Dwork's segment, "How the World Failed Children During the Holocaust."

Participants in the *The Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the European Union* conference organized by Simon Payaslian: **Simon Payaslian** (left); **Dr. Claire Mouradian**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and EHESS, Paris; Clark student **Nareh Ghazarian**; **Dr. Armenak Darbinyan**, director of the Economic Research Institute, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Yerevan, Armenia; **Dr. Stepan Safaryan**, senior analyst, Legal and Political Affairs, Armenian Center for National and International Studies, Yerevan, Armenia; **Dr. Yuri Suvaryan**, head of the Management Department, Yerevan State Institute of Economy

Ellerbee, who has been hosting Nick News on the cable channel Nickelodeon for 13 years, was so impressed with Dwork that she was inspired to do a special about the Holocaust on Nickelodeon. "She is wonderful on a terrible topic," Ellerbee said of Dwork after their interview for the PBS series. "She makes it clear and easy to understand, and, boy, does she make her case. It was partly what she said about the hidden children and children with a star that made me decide to do a program for kids." Dwork, for her part, stood in awe of the creative—and meticulous—TV personality. It took her a New York minute to agree to participate in the resulting 30-minute Nick News special for teens, "Never Again? From the Holocaust to the Sudan," which aired on 27 January 2005. Produced by Marty Toub and his crew at Lucky Duck Productions, Ellerbee's program bridged the generation gap to include young people's voices, and moved from the Holocaust in Europe to genocide in Sudan today.

### On the horizon

The Center is currently working with the Department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the Danish Institute for International Studies to develop a formal collaboration. Debórah Dwork and Uffe Østergård, head of the Department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the Danish Institute, look forward to building a strong bridge between the two institutions to support faculty and student exchanges and other initiatives that foster intellectual cross-fertilization and mutual scholarly enrichment. □

## A Valued Member of the Center Community: Stacy Scungio

The activities of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies received a boost this year from the extra support provided by Stacy Scungio. A student at Anna Maria College, Scungio interned at the Center during the fall 2004 semester, assisting Program Manager Dr. Tatyana Macaulay prepare for many of the Center's public events and educational programs.



Stacy Scungio, an intern at the Center during the fall 2004 semester

"I especially welcomed Stacy's assistance with the fall 2004 symposium 'Democracy, the Economy, and the Middle Class,' which required a lot of organization in a limited period of time," Macaulay notes. "Stacy manifested her involvement with the Center in a multiplicity of ways: attitude and high motivation, attention to detail, and good communication skills."

Scungio first approached the Center in spring 2004 for help with a research paper about the Holocaust. A history major with a strong interest in the Holocaust and World War II, Scungio wanted to interview a Holocaust survivor for her paper but had difficulty finding someone to talk with her. Her advisor at Anna Maria, Professor Paul Russell, suggested she contact Clark for help. Macaulay and Center graduate student Ilana Offenberger suggested Scungio interview Robert Melson, then a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Center. Scungio read Melson's memoir *False Papers* and conducted an hour-long interview with him.

"It was truly a great experience for me, and I know it is something that I will always remember," Scungio says. "When it came time for me to choose an internship for my senior year, I knew that the Strassler Center would be a great place for me to work."

Scungio assisted Macaulay unstintingly. She worked in the Center's Rose Library, helped organize materials for the Prague/Terezín Program, directed by Macaulay, and lent a hand in the preparations for Center public events.

While the Center certainly benefited from her assistance, Scungio also found great value in her exposure to the Center's people and programs. Attending the Center's public events introduced her to a range of new ideas and perspectives.

"Some of the work and research that these speakers had done was very impressive and inspirational to me," says Scungio. She also enjoyed the opportunity to be surrounded by people who shared her scholarly interests. "I was so inspired by the graduate students at the Center and the hard work that they do on such a difficult topic."

As a result of her experience at the Center, Scungio continues to feed her passion for studying the Holocaust and World War II and would like to pursue it some day.

"I hope to eventually attend graduate school and have high hopes of studying the Holocaust in a more in-depth manner," she admits. □

## Faculty Notes

The Center's faculty enjoyed another busy year with many teaching, research and public service activities.

**Debórah Dwork**, founding director of the Center and Rose Professor of Holocaust History, started the year at top speed and kept going. Deeply committed to public service, Dwork was delighted by the Center's full fall calendar of community events, which also provided her with terrific opportunities to develop beneficial linkages on behalf of the Center and its students.

She cheerfully added to her roster of public obligations, seeing each as an occasion to share experience and expertise. A long-time friend of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, Dwork was pleased to accept Board Chair Harvey Schulweis's invitation to chair the Education Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. She was pleased, too, to share her knowledge as a member of the Advisory Board of Ann Kirchner's "Letters to Sala" Project. Shipped from one camp to another during the Holocaust, Kirchner's mother, Sala Garmcarz, survived miraculously. Equally miraculously, she received and saved more than 300 letters. If Dwork's knowledge of Jewish life during the Holocaust and her scholarship on the Nazi camp system helped locate the significance of this collection, her participation in the American Jewish Committee's Anti-Semitism Task Force drew upon her expertise about Jewish life today. Furthermore, she said, "the Task Force educated *me* about on-going political initiatives." As in past years, Dwork served on the academic boards of the International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University; Facing History and Ourselves; and the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center.

**Debórah Dwork** with  
**Ulf Pettersson**, vice rector  
of Uppsala University and  
a renown geneticist



Undergraduate teaching and mentoring the Center's graduate students remain a true joy for Dwork. She serves as advisor to seven graduate students, five of whom are now fully engaged with researching and writing their dissertations, one has finished his coursework, and one has just completed his first year of the program. "The Center graduate students are top-notch. I say so all the time, and I always hope my interlocutors take my word for it. But if they don't, all they need do is look at the internationally competitive scholarships our students have won and the national and international conferences to which they have been invited to present papers!"

Dwork's scholarship on the history of the Holocaust continues to be recognized the world over. She was honored to present the annual 2004-2005 Memorial Lecture at Ben-Gurion University in Israel (December 2004), and enjoyed meeting with graduate and post-graduate students as well as professorial colleagues. She was honored, too, to give the fourth annual Hugo Valentin Lecture at Uppsala University in Sweden (February 2005). Extending her stay in Sweden, Dwork ran a graduate seminar and an undergraduate session (in English!).

Taking advantage of her release from classroom teaching in the spring semester, Dwork completed a few projects, moved forward on another, and sowed the seeds for a book to come. She had a great time writing the foreword for the English translation of Harry Mulisch's *Criminal Case 40/61*. She has no idea why the Dutch journalist and author's report on the Eichmann trial in 1961 was translated now and slated as the lead title in

"The Center graduate students are terrific. I say so all the time, and I always hope my interlocutors take my word for it. But if they don't, all they need do is look at the internationally competitive scholarships our students have won and the national and international conferences to which they have been invited to present papers!"

— Debórah Dwork

the University of Pennsylvania's 2005 spring line, but she enjoyed the opportunity to write about Mulisch, the trial, and her (in comparison to his) assessment of Eichmann. She took great pleasure, too, writing with her co-author Robert Jan van Pelt: an article they were invited to contribute to the first volume of a new, international *Journal of Holocaust Studies*; an essay on Auschwitz for the revised *Encyclopaedia Judaica*; a revised edition with an entirely new chapter for their book *Auschwitz*; and the first part of their current project, *Flight From the Reich*, a history of refugee Jews.

Dwork looks forward to the publication of *The Poesie Album of Marianka Zadikow in Theresienstadt*, now expected in 2006 by the University of Chicago Press. Dwork wrote the introduction and annotations for this facsimile edition of a *poesie album*, a kind of autograph album, that was collected by Marianka Zadikow, a young Jewish inmate of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Zadikow and her album survived. Dwork hopes Zadikow will live to see her secret and carefully guarded wartime album published for all the world to see.

Educating school teachers about the Holocaust continues to be a priority for Dwork. This past year, she participated in teacher education programs offered by the Swedish Committee Against Anti-Semitism (in Stockholm), the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage. For Dwork, public education also means serving as an expert for the press, to provide an educated voice in the public debate on Holocaust- and genocide-related issues. This year, Dwork was pleased to work with journalists in a range of media at home and abroad. A Princeton University

alum ('75), Dwork was especially happy to help the much younger Anne Ruderman (class of 2001) with an article she was writing about the "Letters to Sala" project for the *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. Last but not least, Dwork moved from the big screen to the small, serving as an expert commentator for two television specials, "Never Again? From Auschwitz to Darfur" with Linda Ellerbee for Nick News, and "Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State," a PBS special coproduced by KCET/Hollywood and the BBC (see page 17).

The Center was delighted to welcome **Thomas Kuehne** as the Strassler Family Professor in the Study of Holocaust History in September 2004. Kuehne enjoyed an enormously productive and successful first year at Clark and made significant contributions to the intellectual life of the Center. He offered to help Dwork envision and actualize the Center's 2004 symposium on *Democracy, Economy, and the Middle Class* (see page 9) even before he arrived in Worcester. (A thrilled and grateful Dwork accepted.) Kuehne also jumped into the graduate program with both feet, generously advising students, serving as chair of one dissertation committee, and as a member of two others. He taught four new courses: "Authority and Democracy: The History of Modern Europe," "Gender, War, and Holocaust," "Europe in the Age of Extremes," and "The Holocaust: Issues and Controversies," as well as an undergraduate directed study. And he serves on the Center's Steering Committee.



Thomas Kuehne

Among his many publications this year, Kuehne co-edited with Peter Gleichmann *Massenhaftes Töten*, which was published in 2004. He wrote an article on “Demokratisierung und Parlamentarisierung,” which was published in *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* in May 2005. His chapter on “Frieden, Krieg und Ambivalenz” is forthcoming in *Frieden-Gewalt-Geschlecht*, edited by Jennifer Davy, Karen Hagemann, and Ute Kaetzel. His “Review of Matthew Stibbe, *Women in the Third Reich*” was published on H-Net Reviews, an online journal, in December 2004, and his “Review of Petra Maria Schulz, *Aesthetisierung von Gewalt in de Weimarer Republik*” was published on H-Soz-u-Kult, another online journal, in January 2005.

Committed to service in the public as well as scholarly arenas, Kuehne accepted JFR vice president Stanlee Stahl’s invitation to teach schoolteachers participating in the JFR Advanced Winter Seminar in January 2005. On the other side of the Atlantic, Kuehne serves as a referee for the Fritz-Thyssen Stiftung, a foundation that supports universities and research institutes both inside and outside Germany, and he is a member of the editorial board for the book series *Frieden und Krieg: Beitrage zur Historischen Friedensforschung*, published by Klartext in Essen.

Notwithstanding his full agenda of research, teaching, and service, Kuehne spoke at conferences and gave public lectures this past year, from “How Hitler’s Warriors Came to Peace: Germany after 1945” at the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C., to “Male Bonding and Shame Culture — Hitler’s Soldiers” at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at Ohio State University. A special highlight

of the year for the Center was Kuehne’s first public lecture at Clark. He presented “Beauty, Race, and Democracy in the 20th Century” on 6 April 2005 in Clark’s Tilton Hall (see page 13). The Center’s faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates have gained much from Kuehne in his first year at Clark and look forward to many more years working with this outstanding teacher, scholar, and mentor.

**Simon Payaslian**, Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, continues to make major contributions to Clark’s undergraduate and graduate programs in genocide studies, while developing the Center’s international reputation in the field. His book *United States Policy Toward the Armenian Genocide*, based on his dissertation for his second Ph.D. (history), was snapped up by Palgrave Macmillan. The Center community looks forward to celebrating the launch of this monumental and important work, which is expected to be released in November 2005.



**Simon Payaslian**

Moving his research agenda forward in high gear, Payaslian wrote the chapter on “The Armenian Resistance at Shabin-Karahisar, 1915” for *Armenian Sebastia/Sivas*, edited by Richard Hovannisian, and a chapter on “The Armenian Genocide in Diarbekir, 1915” for *Armenian Tigranakert/Diarbekir*, also edited by Hovannisian. Payaslian’s essay “The U.S. and the Armenian Genocide” was published in the winter 2005 issue of *The Middle East Journal*, in

The Center’s faculty, graduate students and undergraduates have gained much from Kuehne in his first year at Clark and look forward to many more years working with this outstanding teacher, scholar, and mentor.

which he also published reviews of Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris*, Jay Winter's edited volume *America and the Armenian Genocide of 1915*; and Merrill Peterson's "*Starving Armenians: America and the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1930*."

Payaslian supported the Center's national and international presence this year as a guest speaker and participant in conferences around the world. He presented the paper "Sources of Armenian Nationalism in the Ottoman Empire: An Historiographical Assessment" at the *Armenian-Turkish Conference*, held from 14 to 17 April 2005 in Salzburg, Austria. Payaslian was especially pleased to participate in this conference, because it brought together Armenian and Turkish scholars to explore intellectual common ground outside of the contentious issue of the recognition or nonrecognition of the Armenian genocide. He hopes that such discussions between Armenian and Turkish scholars will lay the foundation for the same kind of intellectual exchange about the genocide.

While his colleagues Debórah Dwork and Thomas Kuehne worked with Chairman of Proventus Daniel Sachs to mount their symposium on *Democracy, the Economy, and the Middle Class*, Payaslian organized an international conference on *The Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the European Union: Challenges of Regional Integration*, held in Luxembourg in October 2004. The conference was sponsored by the Henry J. Leir Center, Luxembourg, which is a Clark program. Participants included scholars and practitioners from Armenia, Europe, and the United States (including Clark student Narreh Ghazarian), who discussed issues ranging from the advantages of regional

integration to the challenges of globalization. Payaslian's papers, "The Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the European Union" and "The EU and the Future of Armenia's Economic Security," focused on the core theme of the conference. With undiminished energy, Payaslian returned to the Center to participate in his colleagues' symposium, and he delivered a paper on "Democracy in Post-Communist Armenia."

This year marked the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and Payaslian willingly shared his expertise on this subject in academic forums and community commemorations alike. He spoke on the "Anatomy of Post-Genocide Reconciliation" at the *International Conference on the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide* at the University of California, Los Angeles in April and, a few days later, on "U.S. Policy Toward the Armenian Genocide" at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Continuing his work as an ambassador to the Armenian community here in the United States, Payaslian was a guest speaker at the Armenian Community Center in Dearborn and he was honored to be the guest speaker at the presentation of a book by Armenia's Ambassador to the United States, Arman Kirakossian, *The Armenian Massacres, 1894-1896*, at the Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont, Mass. Nor did he ignore the home crowd: Payaslian organized a public lecture at Clark to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on 23 April 2005.

Payaslian continues to help develop the undergraduate program as a member of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, and he teaches a range of popular courses. All this, Payaslian accomplished, while also

Payaslian supported the Center's national and international presence this year as a guest speaker and participant in conferences around the world.

serving as vice president of the Society of Armenian Studies.

The Center faculty value sharing expertise with the media in order to help inform public debate, and Payaslian is no exception. To that end, he was interviewed by Horizon: Armenian TV (Los Angeles) about Armenian national independence. He spoke on Worcester's WTAG AM 580 about commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Genocide, and was interviewed about this on Channel 3 News (Worcester).

The Center is fortunate to have **Shelly Tenenbaum**, associate professor of sociology at Clark, to direct the undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Dwork was especially grateful when Tenenbaum agreed to serve as interim director of the Center for the spring 2005 semester.

Tenenbaum brings a sociological perspective to her research and teaching on the Jewish experience in the United States, the Holocaust, and genocide. Her publications in this area this year include the chapter "Shops, Stores, and Stands: East European Jewish Immigrant Business in the United States" in Murray Friedman's edited volume *Jews and American Business*, forthcoming from Temple University Press. She gave a presentation of the same title at the *Jews and American Business Conference* at Temple University in October 2004. Tenenbaum also chaired the presentation "American Jews at 300: Examining and Celebrating American Jewish Identity in the 1950s" at the *2004 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History* in June 2004. Tenenbaum was especially honored when Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, Mass.

invited her to speak at the Temple's Yom Hashoah service in May 2005. Her talk was titled "Moral Speechlessness: Sixty Years After Auschwitz."

At Clark, Tenenbaum taught courses on "Genocide," "Race and American Society," "Class, Status, and Power," and "American Jewish Life." She also advised students in the undergraduate concentrations in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Jewish Studies, and Race and Ethnic Relations, and she supervised two students in the fall 2004 semester and three students in the spring 2005 semester in their directed research projects.

Tenenbaum is equally active and engaged in the broader scholarly community. She is vice president of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, an Executive Committee member for the American Jewish Historical Society Academic Council, a Program Committee member for the 2004 Biennial Scholars Conference of the American Jewish Historical Society, and Academic Advisory Council member for the Jewish Women's Archive, and an Academic Council member for Celebrate 350 (in honor of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States). She is also a referee for the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. □



**Shelly  
Tenenbaum**

Tenenbaum was especially honored when Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, Mass. invited her to speak at the Temple's Yom Hashoah service in May 2005.

## Graduate Student News

Graduate students are the lifeblood of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and nine young scholars made their academic home at the Center in 2004-05. Each of them was successful and productive, advancing his or her own study of the Holocaust and genocide while making significant contributions to the intellectual life and mission of the Center.

**Sarah Cushman** and **Rachel Iskov** “lived” in archives in Poland, Germany, and the United States during their fourth year of the program, and are now fully engaged with writing their dissertations.



Stephen Spielberg  
Fellow **Sarah Cushman**

Stephen Spielberg Fellow Sarah Cushman spent the 2004-2005 academic year researching her dissertation on the women’s camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Supported by research fellowships from the Holocaust Educational Foundation and the Crown Family Foundation, Cushman traveled to Germany

in summer 2004. First, she worked through Dr. Gudrun Schwarz’s private collection, which holds information on women in the S.S. or its auxiliaries. This collection resides at the Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung. Schwarz, who no longer works on Holocaust-related issues, has honored Cushman, giving her the privilege of working with these materials. Cushman then headed south to Frankfurt to research the Auschwitz trials at the Fritz-Bauer Institut. Moving on to Poland, she spent a month in the archives at Auschwitz, and used the time, too, to become familiar with the geography

and topography of the camp. Cushman was thus well prepared to mine the rich resources at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) throughout the autumn of 2004.

Early 2005 found Cushman in Berlin, where she worked in the Bundesarchiv and with the materials at the Haus der Wannsee Konferenz. The Bundesarchiv Aussenstelle in Ludwigsburg yielded particularly rewarding papers from postwar war-crimes trials. Cushman then visited Ravensbrück, the major women’s camp within Germany, to examine its archives and its newly opened exhibit on women guards. Ending her trip in Prague, she presented a paper on “Women Perpetrators at Auschwitz-Birkenau” at the *Sixth Global Conference on Evil and Human Wickedness* in mid-March.

Cushman returned to the USHMM archives to continue her work on her dissertation and to prepare a paper on a subcamp of Auschwitz. She presented “Budy: Gender, Power, and Prisoner Relations” in Krakow at a conference on *Women and the Holocaust*. The exceptionally positive response she received assured her that her preliminary drafts had begun to crystallize. Her paper was accepted for publication, and she began to write her dissertation full time this summer.

Claims Conference Fellow **Rachel Iskov** spent the past year conducting research on her dissertation *Jewish Family Life in the Lodz and Warsaw Ghettos*. She scoured the YIVO Institute archives in New York City (summer 2004) before proceeding to Poland. Supported by a fellowship from the Holocaust Educational Foundation, Iskov spent more than two months at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the

Iskov studied several major collections on Polish Jewish life during the Holocaust, and found the material so rich that, nearing the end of her time at the USHMM, she nearly set up a camp bed on the premises.



Claims Conference Fellow **Rachel Iskov** (left) presenting a paper at the *Legacy of the Holocaust: Women and the Holocaust* conference held in Krakow, Poland, in

summer 2005. **Irena Kohn** (right) moderated Iskov's panel discussion.

Lodz State Archives. Upon her return to Clark in November 2004, Iskov successfully defended her dissertation proposal.

Honored to receive a Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellowship, she began a six-month research fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the USHMM. She studied several major collections on Polish Jewish life during the Holocaust, and found the material so rich that, nearing the end of her time at the USHMM, she nearly set up a camp bed on the premises. Iskov was grateful, too, for the opportunity to meet with a number of the Holocaust scholars in residence at the museum, who generously offered support and advice. While at the museum, she presented a paper about her research at a Fellows' Meeting.

Iskov began the summer of 2005 at the *Legacy of the Holocaust: Women and the Holocaust* conference in Krakow, Poland, where she presented a paper on "Hunger and Family Life in the Lodz and Warsaw Ghettos." Upon returning to Worcester, Mass., she began the full-time writing phase of her dissertation project.

**Robin Barry, Ilana Offenberger** and **Lotta Stone** continued to thrive in their third year of studies. During

the past year, they completed their comprehensive field exams, conducted preliminary research for their dissertation prospectus, and successfully defended their dissertation proposals.

Among her other activities this year, Siff Fellow **Robin Barry** attended a conference on *Genocide: Forms, Causes and Consequences* in Berlin, which commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the Herero Genocide. Her dissertation, *The German Legacy of Opposition to Genocide*, explores the several levels of German opposition to that government's genocide of the Herero people in Africa.

Supported by grants from the MJK Endowment Fund for Student Research and the Crown Family Foundation, Barry spent this summer in Namibia, conducting archival research at the National Archives of Namibia, the Namibian Scientific Society, and the Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia. Barry also attended the German Historical Institute Summer Seminar in Germany, for which she received fellowship support.

During the spring 2005 semester, Claims Conference Fellow **Ilana Offenberger** served as a teaching assistant for professor Thomas Kuehne's seminar course, "Holocaust Controversies." Offenberger provided excellent assistance to Kuehne, leading discussion groups and lectures, reading and commenting on the students' papers, and working with the students one-on-one. She was also a guest lecturer at Doherty High School in Worcester. Offenberger's talk was so well received that the school asked her to speak again in the future.

"There are few people who truly think comparatively — who analyze the factors and conditions across geography and time. Naama Haviv does this brilliantly."

— Professor Shelly Tenenbaum,  
director of the undergraduate Holocaust  
and Genocide Studies concentration

Offenberger presented two papers at conferences in the spring term. She was honored by the selection of her paper on “Expropriation, Expulsion, Extermination: The ‘Assets Transfer Agency’ and the Legalized Robbery of the Viennese Jews” for presentation at the *35th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches*, held in Philadelphia on 7 March 2005. She gave a paper at Clark’s *Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference* a few weeks later.



Center graduate students: (back row from left) **Lotta Stone, Jeff Koerber**; (middle row, from left) **Naama Haviv, Robin Barry, Tiberiu Galis**; (front row from left) **JulieAnne Mercier-Foint, Ilana Offenberger**

With the successful defense of her dissertation proposal, *The Nazification of Vienna and the Response of the Viennese Jews*, Offenberger embarked upon an ambitious research program that will take her into her fourth year of the Ph.D. program. Currently, she is engaged in preliminary archival research at the USHMM and the National Archives. She will go on to investigate oral histories at the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles. Offenberger’s project continues in Europe. She looks forward to returning to the Archives of the Austrian Republic in Vienna, the site of her initial research.

Claims Conference Fellow **Lotta Stone** is also right on track. In addition to her studies, she engaged energetically in academic and community activities. She studied like a meshugeneh and actually enjoyed sitting — and passing — her oral comprehensive exams. Stone was delighted to see her first published work, “The Birthday Party — Memories,” in print in the *Boston Jewish Film Festival Program Book*. An

experienced public school teacher, Stone taught others in a workshop on *Famine as a Political Tool?* (see page 16) for teachers in the Worcester public schools. Stone’s teaching experience also proved useful to her tutelage of undergraduate students as a teaching assistant. She worked with Distinguished Visiting Professor Yehuda Bauer in his “Holocaust in Historical Perspective” class and Professor Simon Payaslian in his “Armenian Genocide” course.

Both professors gave her superior ratings for her responsiveness to the students, the clarity of her discussion sessions, and her assistance to them. Stone enjoyed taking to the lectern herself. She presented the lecture “What is a Jew” to participants in the Prague/Terezín Program at Clark University.

Ever mindful of the Center’s public service mission, Stone also spoke at two community events in May 2005. In honor of Yom HaShoah, she presented “The Optimists: Bulgaria and the Holocaust” to the Belmont World Film Association and Jewish community and “They Stood Firm: The Rescue of the Jews of Bulgaria” at Abbott Laboratories’ employee luncheon.

Thanks to a Yiddish for Holocaust Research Fellowship and the program at the University of Indiana, Stone achieved competency in Yiddish. Yiddish was one of the official languages of South Africa and used extensively by Jewish communities in that country during the first decades of the 20th century. Stone will spend

Stone was delighted to see her first published work, “The Birthday Party — Memories,” in print in the *Boston Jewish Film Festival Program Book*.

Offenberger was honored by the selection of her paper on the “legalized” robbery of Jews for the *35th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches*.

the 2005-06 academic year in South Africa, where she will research her dissertation *Seeking Asylum: Jewish Refugees to South Africa*. She will work in the archives of the South Africa Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg, the Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town, and the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

Rose Fellow **Tiberiu Galis** and Tapper Fellow **Naama Haviv** enjoyed a successful second year of studies at the Center.

**Tiberiu Galis**, who was awarded an Open Society Institute Soros Foundation Supplementary Grant, continued his research on issues related to transitional justice and democratization. He presented the preliminary results of his research at the December 2004 American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies National Convention in Boston. Together with Haviv, he researched international responses to contemporary cases of genocide, with special focus on Sudan. Invited to present various aspects of this project, he traveled to the *Central and Northern England Graduate Conference* in Manchester, UK, in November, and she to the *Sixth Global Conference on Evil and Human Wickedness* in Prague in March. Galis also presented a paper at Clark's *Graduate Student Multi-disciplinary Conference*. Galis and Haviv were very pleased to have several articles on their research accepted for publication. Galis maintains his intellectual and professional ties with Europe, continuing his work as a consultant on genocide risk assessment for the British Parliament's All Party Group on the Great Lakes and Genocide Prevention.

Galis was startled (and thrilled) to find that he relished

serving as a teaching assistant for Thomas Kuehne's course on "Authority and Democracy" in fall 2004 and "Europe in the Age of Extremes" in spring 2005. He had not taught before, and he discovered the satisfaction of preparing for discussion sessions, prompting the students to analyze the material, and pressing them to think critically.

**Naama Haviv's** dissertation focuses on the preconditions of "ethnic cleansing" through "population transfer," with a special regional focus on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Her project is pursued under the direction of eminent genocide scholar Dr. Barbara Harff, a longtime friend of the Center who served as the Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor in fall 2003, and is now Proventus Distinguished Visiting Professor for fall 2005. Haviv presented "Absolute Evil: International Actors and the Prevention of Genocide," (co-written with Tiberiu Galis) at the *Sixth Global Conference on Evil and Human Wickedness* in Prague (March 2005). Thanks to grants from the Crown Family Foundation and the Stern family, she spent the summer of 2005 conducting research at several archives in Israel, including the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem and the archives at the Jabotinsky Institute in Tel Aviv.

A certified schoolteacher, Haviv is both skilled and dedicated. Professors Kuehne, Payaslian, and Tenenbaum — and the students in their classes — benefited as she brought these attributes to bear as a teaching assistant. In addition to the roster of teaching-assistant duties, Haviv presented a lecture in Tenenbaum's and Payaslian's co-taught "Comparative Genocide" course. "I was in awe," Tenenbaum reported.

Galis and Haviv presented their research on international responses to contemporary genocides at conferences in the U.K. and the Czech Republic.

“There are few people who truly think comparatively — who analyze the factors and conditions across geography and time. Naama Haviv does this brilliantly.” Tenenbaum knew a good thing when she saw it, and promptly asked the academic administration if Haviv might be permitted to co-teach the course with her in 2005-06, when Payaslian is on leave. Permission granted.

Claims Conference Fellow **Jeffrey Koerber** and Fromson Fellow **JulieAnne Mercier-Foint** joined the Center last year and embarked on a stimulating first year of studies.

**Koerber** brought to his studies 15 years of expertise in historic preservation architecture. His first year of graduate work included courses with Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor Yehuda Bauer, Debórah Dwork, Marion Pritchard, Thomas Kuehne, and Simon Payaslian. One of his goals is to develop an understanding of the victims’ perspectives on the Holocaust and other genocides. His studies this past year covered a range of topics toward that end, with courses on Jewish life in the shtetlach of eastern Poland before and during the Holocaust, the experience of Nazi Occupation in France and Poland, the examination of gender issues during “Total War” and the Holocaust, and the origins of the genocide of Armenians in 1915-1918. He also studied Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a computer program for spatial analysis, that he anticipates will find application in his dissertation research.

Koerber swam right into academic life, and took knowledge gained right out again into academic conferences. He presented a paper on conservation and

stabilization challenges (a central problem at Holocaust sites) at an international meeting in New York, and a paper on memorials and remembrance at the *Second Annual Conference on European History* in Athens, Greece. As his thoughts on his possible dissertation topic crystallized, Koerber gave a talk on “Holocaust Memorials and Monuments in Belarus” at the *Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference* at Clark.

Koerber plans to draw upon his previous architectural experience in his dissertation research, which will examine the response of survivor communities to the Holocaust through the building of memorials. This summer, he traveled to Belarus to conduct preliminary research and, with the help of a YIVO study grant, took a Yiddish language course at the YIVO Institute in New York City and began work in that institution’s archives.

**JulieAnne Mercier-Foint** enjoyed courses taught by Dwork, Pritchard, Kuehne, Bauer, and Payaslian, as well as Clark professors Padraic Kennedy and Valerie Sperling. She also studied Yiddish at Boston Workmen’s Circle in Brookline, Mass.

Mercier-Foint participated in Clark’s *Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference*, presenting a research paper, “FPO: Jewish Armed Resistance Within the Vilna Ghetto, 1941-1943,” which she wrote under Distinguished Visiting Professor Yehuda Bauer’s direction. Throughout the spring 2005 semester, Mercier-Foint worked with Kuehne to refine her dissertation topic, a comparative study of the rape of women during the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, and the “ethnic cleansing” in Bosnia-

Koerber swam right into academic life,  
and took knowledge gained right out again  
into academic conferences.

Herzegovina in the early to mid-1990s. Mercier-Foint is thrilled that Kuehne will continue to work with and advise her throughout the following four years as her primary adviser and dissertation director.

This summer, Mercier-Foint accompanied Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, Clark professor Eric Gordy, and a group of undergraduate students, as the program assistant on the 2005 Prague/Terezín Program. Prior to leaving for Europe, students spend four days at Clark learning about the Holocaust and related topics. Mercier-Foint taught these students about Holocaust memoirs, the importance of such documents, how they are written, and how to analyze and interpret them.

Upon her return from Europe, Mercier-Foint undertook intensive study of German, an essential language for her research agenda. And, supported by a grant from the Stern family, she began to work her way through the scholarly and memoir literature on her topic. This endeavor made her particularly appreciative of Diana Bartley and the Bartley Collection in the Rose Library, as well as the Lamont Library (Harvard University) material on the Armenian Genocide.

### New Graduate Students

This fall, the Center welcomes new graduate student **Steffi Fischer**, who has previous connections to the Center community and brings substantial knowledge and experience to her studies here.

**Fischer** spent the 2001-02 academic year at Clark as a German Fulbright Fellow. Her presence enriched the Center's community of scholars and her curatorial experience was invaluable to mounting Ann Weiss's

exhibit "The Last Album: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau" that year. Fischer's scholarly experience also includes serving as a researcher for a documentary film on the S.S. St. Louis, which became the subject of her master's thesis, "The Fiasco of the S.S. St. Louis: History and Myth." She conducted research on this topic at the Shoah Foundation, where she was invited to listen to recorded testimonies of passengers on the St. Louis, and at the National Archives, and the archives of the Joint Distribution Committee.



**Steffi Fischer** (right)  
with **Sarah Cushman**

With her M.A. in Holocaust History from Clark and a degree in museum studies from the University of Applied Sciences in Berlin, Fischer was a terrific choice for head of the Education Department of Germany's then planned national Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. The Memorial opened in May 2005. Deeply pleased with the work she did for the Memorial, yet at the same time realizing that she wished to gain deeper knowledge of the Holocaust through scholarly research and study, Fischer took the decision to return to academic life. The Center is delighted to welcome her back for her doctoral studies. □

The Center is delighted to welcome Fischer  
back for her doctoral studies.

## Undergraduate Student News

Clark's undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) brings together students from a wide variety of majors with a common interest in gaining a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and genocide. This dynamic, interdisciplinary program provides extraordinary learning opportunities, such as the bi-annual Prague/Terezín Program and summer internships, that often allow students to examine these catastrophic events where they happened. The following HGS students took advantage of such opportunities this past year .

**Akosua Ampofo '05** received an Anton Fellowship from Clark to study child-headed households in Rwanda during summer 2004. She worked with World Vision to interview members of child-headed households — people age 25 or under who were orphaned by the 1994 genocide or AIDS — community leaders, and nongovernmental organizations in the Gikongoro region of Rwanda to assess their attitudes and beliefs about community cohesiveness and mutual support. Ampofo's research constituted her honors thesis for her double major in geography and international development.



**Akosua Ampofo '05** (left) with one of the child-headed families she worked with in Rwanda.

This was Ampofo's third internship in Africa and her second in Rwanda. She previously interned with Partnership for Enhancing Agriculture in Rwanda through Linkages (PEARL), a project affiliated with USAID, and with Action Aid Ghana.

**Ashley Borell '06**, a sociology major, spent two weeks near Kraków, Poland, helping to uncover and restore a Jewish cemetery at the site of the Plaszow concentration camp, which was featured in the movie "Schindler's List." When inmates of Plaszow, Borell's



**Ashley Borell '06** with her grandmother, a Holocaust Survivor

grandmother and great-aunt had been issued sledgehammers to smash Jewish headstones. Borell undertook this project under the auspices of Experiential Learning International, Inc., an organization that provides opportunities for volunteer work and internships around the globe. Upon her return to Clark, she compiled photographs from Plaszow and a description of her experiences there for a powerful display at Cohen-Lasry House.

Supported by the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Award for Holocaust Studies Scholars from Clark's Holocaust and Genocide Studies concentration, **Sara Brown '05** spent seven weeks during summer 2004 working with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Rwanda. AVP partners with the government's Gacaca courts, a local system of traditional justice. Brown was assigned the crucial task of defining "genocide" and incorporating it into a training manual for all Gacaca ministers of justice and personnel. She also facilitated trainings on this subject throughout Rwanda. Brown was interviewed about her experience in Rwanda for the 29 November 2004 issue of the *New York Times* UPFRONT magazine.

"I wanted to know everything I could about the experience and realities of the Holocaust and what my relatives had been through. This trip allowed me to see a lot with my own eyes."

— Ashley Borell '06 on the two weeks she spent helping to restore a Jewish cemetery near the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland

She hopes to return to Africa to continue her work as a human rights advocate.



**Sara Brown '05** with one of her friends in Rwanda

**Claude Kaitare '05** continued his work to educate others about the Rwandan genocide. At the end of April 2005, Kaitare spoke to undergraduates in Dr. Thomas Doughton's seminar "Holocaust and 20th-Century Genocide" at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester about his experience as a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. Kaitare gave the students a history of Rwanda, discussed his experiences during the genocide, and answered questions. His talk at the College of the Holy Cross was one of many speaking engagements for Kaitare this past year. He spoke at Bay Path College in Western Massachusetts and at several high schools in the Boston area, including Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Codyman Academy, Lexington High School, and Charlestown High School. Continuing a long relationship with Facing History and Ourselves, Kaitare participated in the Facing History Youth Symposium, held over two weekends in Boston, and spoke to an audience of nearly 1,200 at the Facing History Benefit Dinner on 12 May 2005. He is also a member of the Facing History Speakers Bureau.

After graduating from Clark in May, Kaitare continued his study of the Holocaust and genocide by participating in the Prague/Terezín

Program. In July, he returned to Rwanda for the first time since the genocide in 1994. He hoped to work with the Gacaca courts, possibly as a translator or as a resource for the leaders of the judicial courts. He would also like to work with teachers there. This is Kaitare's ultimate goal — to continue working with teachers to help them educate others about the Holocaust and genocide.

While not officially an HGS student, **Joshua Franklin '06** has a special affinity for the program. His history major and concentration in Jewish studies intersect in the many HGS courses he has taken at Clark. A participant in the 2005 Prague/Terezín Program, Franklin was the only undergraduate to present a paper at the *35th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches*, held in Philadelphia from 5 to 8 March 2005. He co-presented the paper *This is What I Saw, This is What Happened: First Person Testimony* with his mother Karen Franklin, a genealogist with a keen interest in the Holocaust. The paper grew from research Josh conducted for a course on "Holocaust Perpetrators" that he took with Robert Jan van Pelt, when Dr. van Pelt served as the Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Center in spring 2004. Franklin focused on correspondence between his grandfather Walter Spiegel, a German-born American Jewish soldier in World War II, and his English-born great-grandfather Julian Spiegel. □



**Joshua Franklin '06** with Center graduate student **Ilana Offenberger** (center) and Center alumna **Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03**; all three speakers at the *Scholars Conference* in Philadelphia (March 2005)

"Having been in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Concentration since my sophomore year, I've been able to use other genocides, such as Cambodia and the Holocaust, to make comparisons to help people understand what happened in Rwanda."

— Claude Kaitare '05 on the value of his HGS education to his talks about the Rwandan genocide

## Undergraduate panel: “Ten Years Down the Road: The Rwandan Genocide”

Akosua Ampofo '05, Sara Brown '05 and Claude Kataire '05, students in Clark's Holocaust and Genocide Studies Concentration, organized and presented “Ten Years Down the Road: The Rwandan Genocide” on 17 November 2004 to an overflowing crowd in the Rose Library. The event marked the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, which killed 800,000 Rwandans, most of them Tutsis, in 100 days.

Kataire was 12 when the genocide began. He told the audience about the day Rwanda's president, Juvenal Habyarimana, was assassinated in April 1994. School was cancelled. Desperate to have some fun on an unexpected day off, Kataire sneaked out of the house, only to find roadblocks guarded by militia armed with machetes, guns, and clubs. A militia member later told Kataire and his father that their extended family had been killed and that they were next.

“The man said he was tired of killing that day and that he would come back another time,” Kataire said. Braving mortal danger, and helped by neighbors and strangers, he and his family made their way to a refugee camp, where they stayed until the killing stopped.

Ampofo and Brown described a country still reeling from the effects of the genocide. In summer 2004, Ampofo worked with World Vision, with the support of an Anton Fellowship from Clark, to help child-headed households in one of Rwanda's poorest communities. She defined child-headed households as those led by individuals under the age of 25 who were orphaned by the Rwandan genocide, AIDS or other causes. According to Ampofo, there are 45,000 such households in



Akosua Ampofo '05 (left), Claude Kaitare '05, and Sara Brown '05, undergraduates in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies concentration.

Rwanda, 90 percent of them led by girls.

These families face many barriers, Ampofo said, including hunger, isolation, depression, fear of neighbors attacking their homes, and difficulties caring for younger siblings. Ethnic divides also still play a role, she said, even though the government has erased ethnic classes.

“People are still very conscious of ethnic differences and make decisions based on ethnicity,” she said.

During a seven-week internship with the Alternatives to Violence Project, Brown defined “genocide” and incorporated it into a training manual for all ministers of justice in Rwanda's traditional Gacaca courts. She also led workshops and training for Gacaca ministers of justice and personnel.

“There is still great pain and suspicion among the Rwandan people,” Brown said, noting that five out of six Rwandan children witnessed violence during the genocide. But she has hope for the future. “Rwanda is doing its best not to recycle the violence.” □

“This event reflects the commitment at Clark to being an intellectual and socially engaged community.”

— Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, director of the undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, commenting on the panel discussion marking the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide

“I want to thank you, just for having been there [in Rwanda]. I have much hope that the country will come back some day.”

— Sister Laetitia Byukusenge, who is from Rwanda and is now a student at Assumption College in Worcester

## To Change the World, To Make a Difference

### *Life after the Center*

The Center is pleased to report on the activities of its alumni and former students who are now using their knowledge and expertise not only to advance their fields of study, but also to teach others about the Holocaust and genocide in the hope of a brighter future.

**Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03** was honored to receive the “Life Reborn” Fellowship from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). As a visiting fellow, she plunged into the USHMM’s extensive post-war oral history collection which allowed her to broaden her dissertation into her first book *Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors in America, 1946-1954*, to be published by Rutgers University Press in 2006. Cohen was a guest speaker on many occasions, but two such presentations were especially memorable: one to the USHMM’s group of survivor volunteers, and the other to One Generation After, one of the oldest second-generation groups in the United States. She also presented at the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) Conference and the *35th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches*, each time eliciting lively discussion and debate. Cohen was pleased to be invited to participate in a seminar at the USHMM in summer 2005 with other scholars researching the Displaced Persons period. Two of her papers have been accepted for presentation at forthcoming conferences, the AJS conference in December 2005 and an international conference at the Imperial War Museum in London in January 2006. Cohen is delighted, too, to use her knowledge in the public arena. She was asked to consult with several Holocaust foundations and projects, including the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, the PBS special “Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State” (see page 17), and the PBS program “Frontline: Memory

of the Camps.” She is now teaching at California State University, Northridge.

**Christine van der Zanden Ph.D. '03** is a Bader Foundation Researcher at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the USHMM in Washington, D.C. She conducts applied research and has written more than 75 entries to the forthcoming multivolume *Encyclopedic History of Camps and Ghettos in Nazi Germany and Nazi-dominated Territories, 1933-1945*. Van der Zanden has focused particularly on subcamps of Buchenwald, Neuengamme, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrueck. In addition to her work at USHMM, she has served as a researcher for the Berlin Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (which opened in May 2005) researching the photographic elements of its exhibitions. She also serves as a volunteer researcher for the London-based Central Registry of Information on Looted Cultural Property, 1933-1945. Van der Zanden will complete a certificate in museum studies in fall 2005. Most recently, she was awarded a prestigious 10-month postdoctoral fellowship from the Hungarian Ministry of Education, sponsored in conjunction with Corvinus University of Budapest.

Van der Zanden has pursued her own research, and has published a number of papers. These include: “The Holocaust on the Web: Using the Internet as a Research Tool,” a Web publication of the Imperial War Museum in London; several entries in the *Encyclopedia of the Home Front: World Wars I and II*, ABD-CLIO, forthcoming in fall 2005; a review of Joan Wolf’s *Harnessing the Holocaust: The Politics of Memory in France in Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, also forthcoming in fall 2005; and “Elusive ‘Texts’: Survivor

Van der Zanden presented papers on her dissertation subject as well, exploring various facets further as she rethinks the whole project as a book.

Testimony and the Memory of Rescue during the Holocaust,” which will be published by the Imperial War Museum and Secolo Verlag in Osnabrück in spring 2006.

Van der Zanden presented papers exploring various facets of her dissertation subject, as she rethinks the whole project as a book. She spoke on “The Plateau of Hospitality: Survival in Hiding in and around Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France” at the Association of Holocaust Organizations Winter Seminar, held in January 2005 at the USHMM. And she was thrilled to deliver the keynote address, “What Makes Heroes? How Ordinary Citizens Performed Extraordinary Acts of Courage in the Face of Evil” at the conference *A Portrait of the Act of Rescue: Scandinavia Reconsidered*, held 19 April 2005 at Florida Atlantic University and co-sponsored by the Scandinavia/American Jewish Committee. She looks forward to future invited presentations: “Testing the Limits of Existence after the Holocaust: The Image of the Pear in Samuel Bak’s Work,” at the Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion Annual Conference; and “Elusive ‘Texts’: Methodological Challenges of Survivor Testimony and the Reconstruction of the Memory of Rescue during the Holocaust” at a conference at the Imperial War Museum, London.

Like her colleagues, van der Zanden carries forward the Center tradition of sharing scholarly expertise beyond the academy. Van der Zanden presented “Rescue during the Holocaust: A Pedagogical Approach,” a workshop for pre-service elementary school teachers, at Florida Atlantic University, and she also taught a session titled “Weapons of the Spirit: A New Discussion on Rescue in and around Le Chambon” at the 2005 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar: The Holocaust

and Anti-Semitism in France, at the USHMM. Her co-instructors were renowned scholars Henry Rousso and Vicki Caron.

In summer 2003, **Beth Lilach** (ABD) accepted a position at the Center for Holocaust & Human Rights Education at Florida Atlantic University. Realizing what a resource had come to campus, the administration promptly asked her to teach. By January 2004, she was teaching an undergraduate course, “The Holocaust,” for Florida Atlantic’s History Department. Lilach was invited to teach that course again, as well as another course, “20th-Century European History.” Lilach also conducted extensive outreach programs through professional workshops, public presentations, and as Expert Lecturer for the Palm Beach County School District. She participated on the Scholar’s Committee of the Florida State Task Force Commission for Holocaust Education during the 2003 and 2004 annual meetings. Lilach has proudly continued in the Center’s tradition of public service, lecturing to the general public, teachers, and scholars on subjects ranging from Holocaust history to genocide prevention to human rights activism. For 2005 Yom HaShoah, Lilach was invited to be the keynote speaker for the commemoration service at Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Mass. Her future commitments include presenting at the Imperial War Museum conference in London in January 2006.

**Sara Levy ’00, M.A. ’01** has remained committed to Holocaust and genocide studies; she is the Holocaust and Critical Thinking Studies Coordinator/Youth Program at the National Conference for Community Justice in San Francisco. □

Lilach has proudly continued in the Center’s tradition of public service, lecturing to the general public, teachers, and scholars on subjects ranging from Holocaust history to genocide prevention to human rights activism.

## Growth and Development

The splendid accomplishments of students and faculty at the Strassler Family Center are supported by the contributions of generous individuals who recognize the Center's unique role in fostering scholarship about the Holocaust and other genocidal events. Gifts come from all quarters and in a multiplicity of ways. We are profoundly grateful for the leadership gifts from the people, foundations, and organizations noted here. And we are grateful, too, for the spontaneous gifts that arrive with notes in the mail. "I just finished reading, from cover to cover, the Strassler Center's annual report. I was moved and overwhelmed," a woman named Laura Kaplan wrote. "I both admire your dedication and intellect and feel indebted to you for the work you are doing for our children's, and their children's, world." There is a direct connection between the gifts of such thoughtful individuals and the ability of our students to carry out their scholarly work. These contributions will shape the intellectual landscape

of Holocaust History and Genocide Studies for generations to come. We are most grateful.

It is a pleasure to make special mention of a small group of leadership donors whose gifts have helped us to complete fundraising for the Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair. These gifts from longstanding friends of the Center shine bright as bold gestures of faith in our mandate to provide doctoral education on the history of the Armenian genocide. We celebrate the achievement of this important milestone — the first fully endowed Chair in the History of the Armenian Genocide and the modern history of the Armenian people. With funding for the Chair complete, we turn our attention to attracting resources for graduate student fellowships and library acquisitions in order to grow this part of our program to the next level.

*The following list includes outright gifts, pledges, and pledge payments made between June 1, 2004 and May 31, 2005.*

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**The Center in the Mail***continued from page 12*

*“Specifically, to be able to attend a workshop on material that has an impact on the subject matter I use in the classroom is of extreme usefulness. The last workshop I attended on 8 October 2004 — *Famine as a Political Tool* — was, as usual, well planned, thought out and presented. I particularly enjoyed the first speaker, Dr. Valerie Sperling.”*

Marie Burison, social studies teacher at Doherty High School in Worcester, to Center volunteer Nate Mencow and Center Program Manager Tatyana Macaulay

*continued on page 38***Support grounded in personal experience:  
Bob and Shirley Siff**

**Bob and Shirley Siff** have been supporters of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies from the start, when the Center was still just an idea. Their involvement was born when Shirley heard Debórah Dwork speak at a women’s event in Worcester. She recalls thinking that “what Professor Dwork aimed to do was terrific.” The Siffs believed in Dwork’s vision for a Center that would confer the first doctoral degrees in Holocaust history and recognized that generous, unrestricted support is vital to an entirely new project. In addition to its financial significance, their decision, in 1998, to become donors was a source of great moral support for Dwork and the fledgling initiative.

Bob Siff’s experiences as a soldier in General Patton’s army was one of the many reasons for the Siffs’ interest in the Strassler Center. Siff grew up in Worcester and had finished three semesters at Brown University when he enlisted in the army. Originally assigned to officer’s training, he was switched to infantry duty. On D-Day Plus Four, he landed at Omaha Beach and was in active service until the end of the war. He still vividly recalls his experiences as a 19-year-old soldier engaged in brutal, house-to-house combat. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and in the opening of death camps. He also felt the shock of antisemitism from his fellow soldiers.

After the war, Siff finished his degree at Brown and enjoyed success in business and family life, but he never forgot his war experiences. His first visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., brought many of these memories forward.

The Siffs have given many gifts to the Center, from unrestricted use funds for Dwork to expend as she thought best to grow the Center, to an endowed exhibition space in Cohen-Lasry House. With the recent exhibition of photographs, “Forging a New Life: The Jewish Experience in Central and Eastern Europe on the Cusp of the New Millennium” (see page 11), the Siffs hosted a reception to introduce friends and family to the Center. Dwork described her vision for the future of the Center, just as she did at the women’s event in 1997. Much had changed in the interim. The initiative she’d sketched eight years earlier has come to fruition; now the Center is poised to set a new bar for academic excellence. And this time, she had the pleasure of publicly thanking the Siffs for their early and ongoing generous support. ■

**Debórah Dwork**  
(left) with **Bob**  
and **Shirley Siff**.



Lois and Herman O. '55  
Stekler  
Mark Tobak  
Suzanne Tobak

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### Strassler honored for support of Clark and Center

**David Strassler**, a longtime supporter of Clark and the Center and a former member of the University's Board of Trustees, received the 2004 Distinguished Friend of Education Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The award honors a volunteer whose extraordinary leadership has influenced an institution's cause or the cause of education in general.

Strassler has a longstanding association with Clark and is one of the most dedicated supporters of the Center. He served as a University trustee from 1985 to 2003 and as chair of the Board of Trustees from 1992 to 1995. Most recently, he chaired the University's successful \$106 million capital campaign. As past chairman of the Anti-Defamation League and a board member of Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, Strassler has long been concerned about how the Holocaust will be remembered by and taught to future generations. This prompted him to provide leadership support to Clark's Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

As a trustee, Strassler was the catalyst for the Alumni Association's recent strategic plan and persuaded the Board of Trustees to allocate more resources for alumni programming. In recognition of his dedication to the University, Strassler was named an honorary Clark alumnus in 1998. Clark also named the Strassler Scholarships in his honor. These scholarships are awarded to a small number of Presidential Scholarship candidates who are interested in the visual and performing arts.

"No one deserves the title 'Friend of Education' more than David Strassler," said Center Director Debórah Dwork. "David's work on behalf of the Center, in particular, already has and will continue to shape the future of Holocaust and genocide education around the world." ■



Strassler Family Professor **Thomas Kuehne** (left), **Stephen '55** and **Phyllis Steinbrecher**, **David and Lorna Strassler**, **Robert and Toni Strassler**, and **Alan Strassler**, at the CASE awards luncheon where David Strassler received the 2004 Distinguished Friend of Education Award.

Ernest Rubenstein  
Joan and Lester Sadowsky  
Susan and Daniel Siegel  
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Strochlitz  
Samuel Surloff  
Donald Wolff

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Garabedian  
Joan and Kenneth '71  
Gelman  
Elaine T. Gerstein  
Ronald M. Gilbert

## The Center in the Mail

*continued from page 36*

*"It is our family's tradition to make a donation each Rosh HaShana in honor of an individual who has made a difference to our family during the past year. This year, our gift is made in your honor. I thank you for making this world a better place. This gift is also made in honor of David and Lorna Strassler, whose generosity has enabled the Holocaust and Genocide Center at Clark to become a world leader in Holocaust education."*

Stanlee Stahl, vice president, Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, to Debórah Dwork

*"I am happy to report that Beth Lilach has agreed to be our speaker here at my temple in Framingham, Mass., on May 4. Thank you again for your help in recommending her to me."*

Rabbi Don Splansky regarding Beth Lilach (ABD)

*"I was pleased to receive a copy of the Annual Report of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. It is a most impressive narrative of the singularly important works that the Center is engaged in and a testament to your inspiring work."*

The Honorable Irwin Cotler P.C., O.C., M.P., Mount Royal, House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada

## Center earns second Claims Conference grant

For the second consecutive year, the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies was awarded a \$72,000 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and its Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation, and Education. The grant covered the fellowship and research bursary costs for four graduate students for the 2004-2005 academic year.

This year's grant supported Rachel Iskov for her research on The Jewish Family in the Warsaw and Łódź Ghettos; Jeffrey Koerber for his research on the preservation and interpretation of memorial sites of the Holocaust; Ilana Offenberger for her research on The Jews of Vienna, 1933-1950; and Lotta Stone for her research on Seeking Asylum: Jewish Refugees to South Africa, 1930-1948.

Last year, four of the Center's graduate students received the first-ever grants for individual doctoral research from the Claims Conference, which was established in 1951 to negotiate on behalf of, and in the name of, victims of the Holocaust for restitution of property and compensation for material loss. While the primary goal of the Claims Conference is to serve survivors, the Conference recently decided that educational initiatives also fit its mandate. The Center and its graduate students were proud to receive this second year of support from the Claims Conference.

"The Claims Conference is proud to continue to support the unique program at Clark, which allows for the training of exceptional doctoral candidates in the history of the Holocaust and ensures there are scholars to continue the work of educating future generations about the Shoah," said Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and treasurer of the Claims Conference.

"We were honored when the Claims Conference chose the Center for its first grant to support doctoral research. To be twice recognized by the Claims Conference reveals their confidence in the Center and its programs to educate the next generation of Holocaust and genocide scholars," said Center Director Debórah Dwork. "It is now our job to live up to the trust that the Conference has placed in us to train the very best scholars in this crucial field." ■

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### Bartley Collection goes worldwide

The Rose Library now houses approximately 5,000 books in the Bartley Collection, which has become a valuable resource for the entire Clark community. Soon, the rest of the world will be enriched by this jewel of a collection.

The collection of Holocaust-related books will go worldwide as part of Clark's Goddard Library database of books, which can be accessed from the Internet. In addition, the Center has a new online database that will search the collection from the Center's Web site, [www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust).

The collection, which remains housed in the Rose Library, was generously donated by Diana Bartley, a financial consultant, journalist, and longtime, serious collector of books related to the Holocaust. The daughter of a Navy captain, Bartley closely followed newspaper accounts of World War II when she was a teenager. She was aghast when she learned of the Nazi atrocities, and the Holocaust has been the focus of her book collecting ever since. The collection covers Holocaust history, sociology, photography, memoirs, fiction, poetry, plays, psychology and religion.

Bartley had amassed 1,500 books in her New York apartment when she first considered putting them to greater use. By the time she had decided to donate the collection to the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, it had grown to 3,500 books. Bartley's original goal several years ago was to eventually give the Center 10,000 books—and she has advanced toward that aim, continuing to supply the Center at the rate of some 500 books a year to enrich this remarkable and well-loved collection. ■

## Save These Dates

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Please join us for this exciting array of public programs! Call 508-793-8897 for further information, or visit the Clark calendar at [www.clarku.edu/calendar](http://www.clarku.edu/calendar) or the Center's Web site at [www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust) for a complete listing of events.

### FALL 2005

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 • 4 P.M., KENT SEMINAR ROOM

#### **"Story-Telling, Silence, and Silencing: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors and Nazi Perpetrators"**

Dan Bar-On, Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Scholar; David Lopatie Professor of Post-Holocaust Psychological Studies, Ben Gurion University, Israel; Co-director of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 • 8 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"The Disarmament of History: Israel-Palestine"**

Dan Bar-On, Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Scholar; David Lopatie Professor of Post-Holocaust Psychological Studies, Ben Gurion University, Israel; Co-director of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"Native America in the 21st Century: Out of the Mists and Beyond the Myths"**

W. Richard West Jr., Director, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

*Co-sponsored with Clark's History Department.*

OCTOBER 19, 2005 • 4 P.M., KENT SEMINAR ROOM

#### **"Can We Prevent the Next Genocide?"**

Barbara Harff, Proventus Distinguished Visiting Professor; Professor of Political Science, U.S. Naval Academy

NOVEMBER 2, 2005 • 4 P.M., KENT SEMINAR ROOM

#### **"Germans Abroad: The Herero and Armenian Genocides and the Origins of the Holocaust"**

Eric Weitz, Professor of History; Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, College of the Liberal Arts; Director, Center for German and European Studies, University of Minnesota

*Co-sponsored with Clark's History Department.*

NOVEMBER 10, 2005 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"From Cooperation to Complicity: Degussa in the Third Reich"**

• A NEW BOOK!

Peter Hayes, Theodore Z. Weiss Professor of Holocaust Studies, Northwestern University

### SPRING 2006

FEBRUARY 23, 2006 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"The Psychology of Hate"**

• A NEW BOOK!

Robert Sternberg, IBM Professor of Psychology and Education and Director of the Center of Psychology of Abilities, Competencies, and Expertise, Yale University

MARCH 1, 2006 • 4 P.M., KENT SEMINAR ROOM

#### **"Extreme Violent Societies: An Alternative to the Concept of 'Genocide'"**

Christian Gerlach, Assistant Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh

*Co-sponsored with Clark's History Department.*

MARCH 23, 2006 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"Justice Matters: Legacies of the Holocaust and World War II"**

• A NEW BOOK!

Mona Weissmark, Associate Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University; founder of Mansfield Institute of Social Justice

*This lecture is supported by the Asher Family Fund.*

*In his “Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey,” the poet William Wordsworth reflected upon the nature of generosity: “The best portion of a good man’s life/ His little, nameless, unremembered, acts/ Of kindness and of love.” I am fortunate: I have this opportunity to name and remember the acts of dedication and commitment which propel the Center forward. I am delighted to thank Margaret Hillard for her calm attentiveness, which sets a superior standard of office management; Dr. Tatyana Macaulay for her energy and drive which yield top-notch programs; Dr. Mary Jane Rein for vigorously and cheerfully seeking funds to support the work of the Center; and Ghi Vaughn for her painstaking work as the Center bookkeeper, ensuring that all accounts are crystal clear. I thank, too, my colleagues who generously mentor our doctoral students. This past year, Clark professors Eric Gordy, Beverly Grier, Walter Schatzberg, and Jaan Valsiner served as key advisors to Center graduate students. They were joined by colleagues at other universities: Evan Bukey; Barbara Harff; Robert Melson; Milton Shain; Robert Jan van Pelt; Eric Weitz; and Piotr Wrobel. Giving the gift of time and expertise, each enriched the intellectual universe of the student, and thus enriched the entire community.*

*One word of special appreciation. I was on sabbatical leave during the spring term. Thanks to Prof. Shelly Tenenbaum (Director of the Undergraduate Concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies), who agreed to serve as Interim Director, and Associate Provost Nancy Budwig, who offered to add her strength whenever needed, the Center sailed along smoothly. Shelly Tenenbaum and Nancy Budwig stepped forward for the benefit of the Center; their engagement was a gift to the enterprise. But it was also a gift to me, as they enabled me to focus on the joy (and occasional frustration) of book writing.*

*Judith Jaeger (associate director of Public Affairs), will publish her own book, The Secret Thief, this year. She is also editor-in-chief of this Report, and she deserves all the credit for it — except for the design, which remains the inspiration of Sandy Giannantonio.*

<i>Authors</i>	Robin Barry, Tiberiu Galis, Naama Haviv, Rachel Iskov, Judith Jaeger, Jeffrey Koerber, Julianne Mercier-Foint, Ilana Offenberger, Mary Jane Rein, Lotta Stone
<i>Editor</i>	Judith Jaeger
<i>Creative Services Manager</i>	Kay Hartnett
<i>Photography</i>	Julian Bonder, Chris Christo, Hans Ericsson '01, M.A. '02, Ilana Offenberger, Mary Jane Rein
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Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Clark University  
950 Main Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-1477

508-793-8897  
508-793-8827 (fax)

e-mail: [chgs@clarku.edu](mailto:chgs@clarku.edu)  
[www.clarku.edu](http://www.clarku.edu)