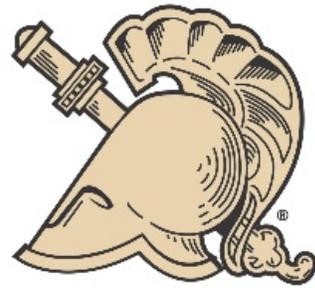


# CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES AT WEST POINT

July 2016 update



## MISSION

The mission of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) is to instill within current and future military leaders a sophisticated understanding of the Holocaust and other instances of genocide, and to inspire them to prevent future atrocities in their roles as military leaders. The Center provides a critical space for research, teaching and collaboration in interdisciplinary studies of the past and present.

West Point's CHGS has no equivalent. It operates as an inter-academy center, serving not just West Point, but the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and Coast Guard. The Center also works with the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Command General Staff College, the US Army War College, the National Defense University, the Marine Corps University, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This reach, this ability to forge connections and make systemic change is unparalleled.



*Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I write this newsletter with both pride in the Center's accomplishments and concern about its future. I have the privilege of directing a center that has produced more good projects and initiatives than it has the ability to undertake. While the 2015-16 academic year included some wonderful successes and achievements, it also revealed the Center's limits and its capacities. Due to reductions in West Point's administrative capacities and fundraising challenges, the Center will not be able to offer the range of programs it has over the last two years. For the first time in six years, the Center will be unable to support the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop in the fall of 2016. It will also scale back the range of cadet-centered programming it offers.

I believe that what the CHGS is experiencing is part of its natural evolution, the growing pains through which all young centers suffer. Likewise, I am confident that we will soon transcend these difficulties and attract the support necessary to accomplish the Center's unique mission.

## OVERVIEW

The 2015-16 academic year was marked by a number of firsts and the continuation and expansion of existing CHGS programs. The CHGS and its representatives facilitated or participated in multiple workshops and symposia. The Center hosted its first presidential address to the entire Corps of Cadets. It organized its first Joint Service Academy Mass Atrocity Prevention Seminar (JSAMAPS) to highlight the work of service academy students studying mass atrocity issues. The Center also created opportunities for cadets and midshipmen to participate in internships and in-depth study around the world. Finally, the Center has selected its first CHGS Post-doctoral Fellow in History and Atrocity Studies. These are all significant milestones in the continued evolution and growth of the Center. This newsletter describes the Center's most significant achievements, workshops and symposia, guest lectures, and publications since January 2016, and describes upcoming summer events.

Center Director David Frey had a particularly busy year. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum selected him to be a member of the USHMM Education Committee. He consulted on several international studies on Holocaust education, provided input into a national study on the implementation of Presidential Study Directive-10 on atrocity prevention, and participated in an American Academy of Arts and Sciences conference on "Technology, War, and Ethics" which had a heavy emphasis on protection of civilians and responsibility to protect. Dr. Frey also met with the Deputy Commander of Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and is currently working with SOUTHCOM and several other organizations to develop a comprehensive plan for human rights and atrocity training and education for use throughout South and Central America. This summer, Dr. Frey will attend a workshop on Genocide Studies and Prevention at Keene State, where he will work with a select group of international scholars design curricular materials and projects related to genocide. He is also working on a project with the Harvard Carr Center on the costs and consequences of torture.

## SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

### **Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Hires First Post-Doctoral Fellow**

After a nationwide search that attracted scores of applications, the Department of History and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies selected Dr. Peggy O'Donnell (Berkeley 2016, photo lower left) as its first Post-doctoral Fellow in History and Atrocity Studies! Dr. O'Donnell's dissertation, *"Bones of Contention: Forensic Science and Human Rights Investigations from the Katyn Forest to The Hague,"* promises to make a significant contribution to the disciplines of history and genocide studies. Hers is a history of the use of mass grave exhumations in investigating human rights violations, war crimes, and acts of atrocity in the second half of the twentieth century. It traces forensic scientists and non-governmental organizations in conflict zones around the world, from Germany in World War II to Latin America, Iraqi Kurdistan, and the former Yugoslavia. By doing so, it explains the internationalization and "scientification" of human rights investigations, in which forensic scientists and the bones they dig up come to play an important role in the historical and legal reconstructions of genocides and other human rights violations. A winner of multiple German government fellowships and research awards, her work,



completed under the mentorship of Dr. Eric Stover, Dr. Stephan-Ludwig Hoffmann, and Dr. Thomas Laqueur, crosses multiple disciplines. She has produced a variety of articles and chapters, ranging from Australian exhumations of mass graves in Ukraine to minority rights in Silicon Valley.

Among other positions, Dr. O'Donnell has served as a Senior Researcher at the Berkeley School of Law's renowned Human Rights Center and as a Visiting Researcher at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. She has organized several international conferences on forensics and war crimes, and she is involved in the production of books on the tracking and arrest of war criminals, guidelines for the safety of victims participating in

war crimes trials, and other policy-related work. She will begin her fellowship in July, and in addition to teaching a limited course load, will work Center-related projects and on preparing her manuscript for publication. Congratulations and welcome to Dr. O'Donnell!

### **Reserve Officer Training Corps Adopts "Ordinary Soldiers" Case Study**

*"Ordinary Soldiers: A Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership"*, first published in hardcopy in September 2014, has been adopted by ROTC Cadet Command for incorporation into its national curriculum for officer education. "Ordinary Soldiers" is now available in Kindle, Ebook, and pdf forms. (Available for free download at <http://www.usmm.org/professionals-and-student-leaders/military-professionals> and at [www.usma.edu/chgs](http://www.usma.edu/chgs)).

### **CADET ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Three History Cadets Focus on Genocide and Atrocity and Win Department and Academy Awards**

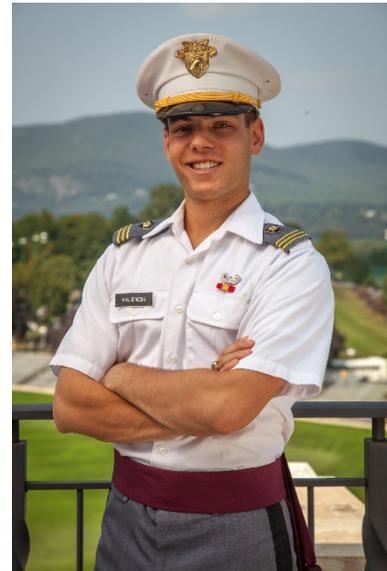


**Cadets Gabriel Beck, Curtis Valencia, and Lindsay Gabow**, all of whom worked with Dr. Frey on genocide-related projects, won awards for their theses or their overall academic performances. **Cadet Beck** (photo at left) won the top History Department thesis award, the Omar Bradley Award, for his thesis *"A Tale of Two Camps: Holocaust Memorialization at Dachau and Neuengamme."* This work examined the development of the camps as sites of memory, and how they helped shape, and were shaped by, broader historical development occurring within post-war Germany. Cadet Beck argued that memorial sites at the former camps at Dachau and Neuengamme serve as

informative case studies because of their contrasting, yet sometimes similar, paths to memorialization. International pressure played a significant role in the initial memorialization efforts, and helped spur

domestic interest in creating the robust institutions that exist at the camp sites today. To reach these conclusions, Cadet Beck used unpublished documents, documents from German and British archives, and even the monuments and physical spaces themselves to demonstrate how historical actors politicize memory and memorials in order to achieve local, national, and international goals. By comparing two camps in ways not previously attempted, Cadet Beck, whom the CHGS sponsored to do research in Germany last summer, made an original contribution to the field of Holocaust memory. Cadet Beck, who was also the first West Point cadet to ever win a German Academic Exchange Graduate Scholarship, will enter the Aviation branch after completing a Master's degree in History and Politics at the University of Siegen in Germany.

**Cadet Curtis Valencia** (photo at right), who also benefitted from summer research sponsored by the Center, won the Academy's Beitler Ethics Essay award for his work, "*The Paper Tiger: The UN Genocide Convention and the US Justifications against Intervention in Rwanda and Darfur.*" Cadet Valencia distinguished himself by writing an outstanding thesis which explored the United States' use of the UN Genocide Convention to avoid military intervention in the 1994 Rwanda and 2003-2004 Darfur genocides. Using recently declassified files as well as documents released under the Freedom of Information Act, Cadet Valencia drew on international law as well as cutting edge historiography on humanitarian intervention and human rights. Cadet Valencia argued that both the Clinton and Bush II Administrations purposefully interpreted the UN Genocide Convention in a manner which allowed the U.S. government to avoid the Convention's stipulation that the international community must intervene to prevent genocide. Cadet Valencia concluded that the United States government manipulated international law to suit its national interests much like states always have, but the U.S. did so in order to avoid a military intervention even though morality may have dictated otherwise. Cadet Valencia will be commissioned into the Engineering Branch.



**Cadet Lindsay Gabow** (photo at left), who also produced an outstanding thesis on the role of the Catholic Church in the genocide of the Maya in Guatemala titled "*The Tragedy of Good Intentions: The Catholic Church and the Guatemalan Genocide,*" won the Ambassador Shelby Cullom Davis Award for the graduating cadet with the highest standing in International History. Cadet Gabow finished her History degree averaging nearly a 4.0 in the major. This was just one part of her outstanding success. During her West Point career, she was a four-year track and cross-country star, and she is one of handful of women who branched Infantry.

Congratulations to these incredible cadets as they embark on their Army careers!

## PUBLICATIONS

Barker, Stephen T. "And Who Is My Neighbor? American Liberators in Transnational Context." In *Intolerance: Political Animals and Their Prey*, eds. Robert Tully and Bruce Chilton. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, forthcoming, 2016.

Frey, David S. *Jews, Nazis, and the Cinema of Hungary: The Tragedy of Success, 1929-44*. I.B. Tauris, forthcoming, summer 2016.

Frey, D.S. "A Smashing Success? The Paradox of Hungarian Cultural Imperialism in Nazi New Order Europe, 1939-1942." *Journal of Contemporary History*, (2016). DOI: 10.1177/0022009415622804

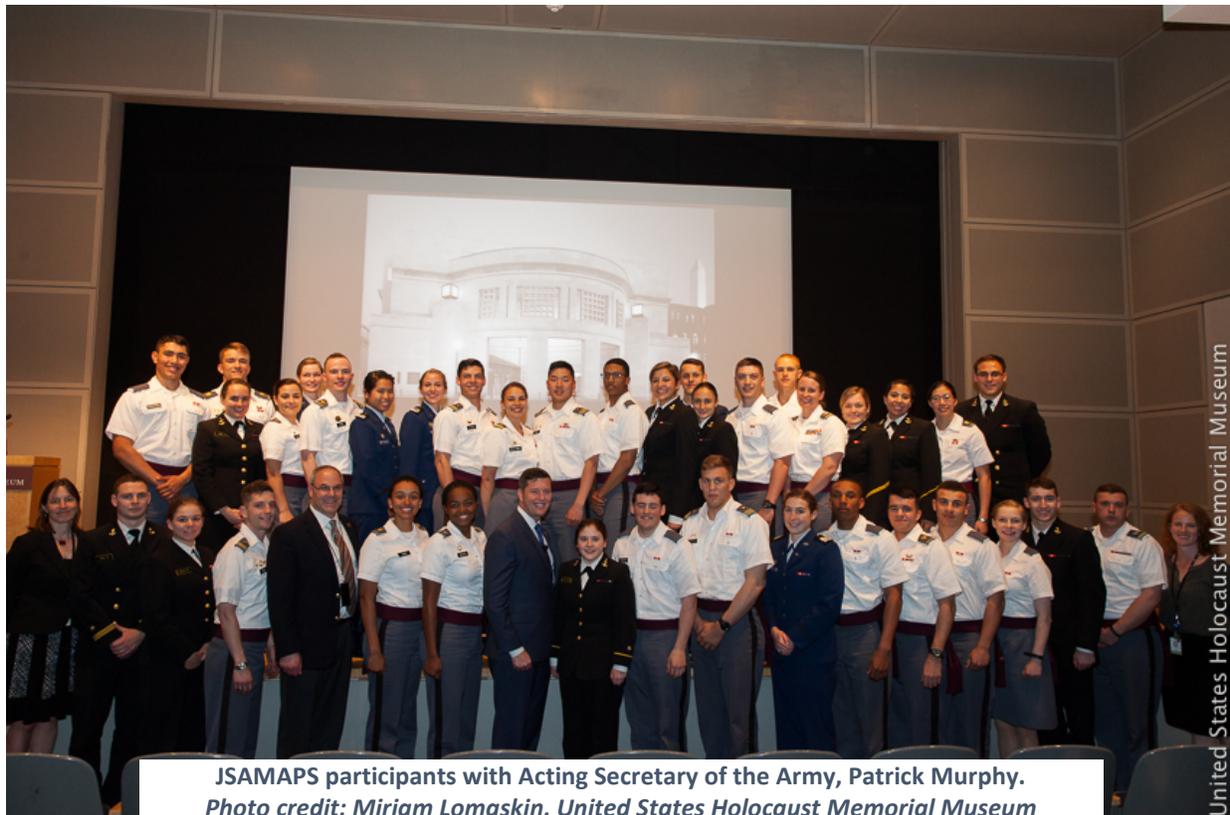
Frey David S. & Bonnie Kovatch, "After Genocide: Rwanda and the African Future." In *What is the Worst that Can Happen? The Politics and Policy of Crisis Management*, eds. Hugh Liebert, Thom Sherlock, and John Morrow. New York: Sloan Publishers, 2016.



## WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIA

### Joint Service Academies Mass Atrocity Prevention Symposium (JSAMAPS)

On 22-23 April, the Center and the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Never Again Initiative, together with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Levine Institute for Holocaust Education, conducted the first ever Joint Service Academies Mass Atrocity Prevention Symposium (JSAMAPS). The event was generously sponsored by the Florence and Robert Rosen Family Foundation on behalf of the service academies and the May Family Foundation on behalf of the Museum. The purpose of this innovative, student-led symposium, which took place at the Museum in Washington, DC, and included undergraduates from West Point (USMA), Air Force (USAFA), Navy (USNA), and Coast Guard (USCGA), was fourfold. First, the symposium enabled military service academy cadets and midshipmen to have advanced discussions about the causes, contexts and consequences of atrocity, atrocity prevention, as well as post-atrocity justice and reconciliation with experts in the field. Second, it allowed cadets and midshipmen the opportunity to present research they conducted on the Holocaust and other genocides. Third, it encouraged the students, who will be among the first tasked with responding to future atrocities as military officers, to draw lessons from the past and learn about recent studies by peers that could lead to creative means of prevention. Fourth, it provided cadets and midshipmen with an unparalleled leadership opportunity. A committee of cadets and midshipmen, including Cadet Nette Monaus '18, Cadet Simone Askew '18, and Midshipman First Class Teresa Kennedy, guided by CHGS Director David Frey, helped design this complex inter-academy symposium, solicit papers from students all four academies, organize panels, arrange for transport in and around Washington, DC, and organize housing for 26 USMA, USCGA, and USAFA cadets at the Naval Academy. Their outstanding efforts



JSAMAPS participants with Acting Secretary of the Army, Patrick Murphy.  
Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

earned them coins from then Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy, who attended and spoke on the symposium's first day.

The faculty co-organizers, Dr. David Frey of West Point, Dr. Richard Ruth of Navy, and Ms. Amanda Rooney Stierli and Ms. Jennifer Ciardelli of the Museum, gathered renowned Holocaust and genocide scholars from the Museum, individuals engaged in atrocity prevention and response work at the State Department and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and individuals representing non-governmental organizations involved in anti-atrocity work. Together with the student organizers, they were able to create a novel symposium for the young men and women who are preparing to become future military leaders and will be the first asked to contend with atrocity and genocide. The JSAMAPS enabled participants to gain new understandings about atrocities that have occurred, the role militaries have played in the past or might in the future, and the responsibility they have in preventing future atrocities. Through discussions and exhibits, our students learned lessons from past atrocities that may enable them to prevent future genocide and atrocities worldwide.



**Cadet Samantha Cabusora '17 in the Holocaust Museum's "Some Were Neighbors" Exhibit.**

***Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum***

Feedback from participants, presenters, and observers indicated that the event exceeded its goal of inspiring a cohort of future leaders of the Armed Services to seek greater understanding of the consequences of atrocities and the tools and challenges of detection, prevention and mitigation today. The two-day program, which each day began at 7:30am and ended with a working dinner that stretched to between 9 and 10pm, focused on past and present examples of genocide and atrocity, and as well as the world's

response to these tragedies. In addition to the candid discussion with Secretary Murphy, the first day included a tour of the Museum's main exhibition, presentations by scholars on the Holocaust and the Cambodian Genocide, and the first two service academy panels featuring student works on history, philosophy, psychology and political science topics as diverse as German, Polish and Israeli memory of the Holocaust; use of Filipino "comfort women" by the Japanese in World War II; genocides in Rwanda and Guatemala; and the concept of "ethnicide."

Day two began with a discussion of current interagency atrocity prevention work led by Department of Defense and State Department officials involved in these efforts. Panelists and participants quickly became enmeshed in deep and frank discussions of how the United States currently handles and mishandles atrocity risk assessment, prevention and mitigation. After a tour of the Museum's *Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust* exhibition and a discussion of genocide



**Ms. Yvette Burcicot of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Dr. Annie Bird of the State Department answer questions during a JSAMAPS panel discussion.**

*Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

increases in Turkish-German trade and a decline in Turkish oppression of its Kurds; and more. On both days, cadet panel chairs facilitated discussion with the audience, and every panel concluded before all participant questions could be answered.

Thirty-eight cadets and midshipmen representing over 25 states and 15 different majors attended the JSAMAPS, helping to make the program a resounding success. The dynamic and sophisticated presentations, as well as the insightful questions asked, impressed the faculty organizers and invited guests. Multiple underclass participants wrote of being inspired by their peers to do research or capstone projects on atrocity issues. Post-event surveys indicated that participants thought the JSAMAPS was “awesome,” “vitally important” for their military, intellectual and character development and a unique opportunity to learn from each other. “I was amazed” by the quality of the student presenters and “shocked and impressed” by the resulting discussion wrote two separate midshipmen. “I loved it!” exclaimed another. “I’ve never reached anything close to the depth that the seminar provided” wrote a West Pointer.



**Cadet Laura Olson '16, Midshipman Nick Hermberg '16, and Cadet Curtis Valencia '16 present their papers during the JSAMAPS.**

*Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

and personal responsibility, the participants heard from representatives of two NGOs working on genocide in Africa who discussed African Genocide Prevention Networks and the specific case of how the United States handled the atrocities that occurred in the Central African Republic in 2013-14. These discussions bookended cadet and midshipman presentations on Responsibility to Protect; a systems analysis modeling the impact of refugees on a community; the US government’s development of a “declare but don’t act” legal interpretation of the genocide convention between 1994 and 2004; a statistical analysis of the correlation between

increases in Turkish-German trade and a decline in Turkish oppression of its Kurds; and more.



**Cadet Micah Gagahen '17 (center) and Cadet Joel Macklin '19 (left) during a JSAMAPS panel discussion.**  
*Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

The CHGS again thanks the Florence and Robert Rosen Family Foundation for making service academy student participation in this extraordinary event possible, and former Acting Secretary of the Army, Patrick J. Murphy, for his candid and insightful words, and for his support of atrocity prevention.



**Symposium organizers (left to right) Cadet Simone Askew '18, Midshipman 1/c Teresa Kennedy, and Cadet Nette Monaus.**  
*Photo credit: Miriam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

## GUEST LECTURES

### Colonel Steve Parker



On 18-19 April 2016 the History Department and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies hosted COL Steve Parker of the African Center for Strategic Studies. COL Parker not only attended the Academy's Africa Symposium on 19 April, but also taught the African sections of the required regional world history (HI 108/158A) about current challenges facing Africa and the importance of understanding the historical antecedents of those challenges. COL Parker, a Foreign Area Officer with vast experience in Africa, including as an attaché in Zimbabwe, Morocco/Western Sahara, Djibouti, and elsewhere, is also a former White House

Fellow and former Aide de Camp to the Commander of US Army Africa. He and Dr. Frey discussed ways the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies might work with AFRICOM and the African Center for Strategic Studies to advance US atrocity prevention efforts in Africa.

### Father Patrick Desbois

On 20 April 2016, West Point hosted Father Patrick Desbois as its Day of Remembrance speaker. The combined efforts of the Equal Opportunity Office and Dr. David Frey, Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, brought Father Desbois to the Academy for a full day of speeches and meetings.

A world-renowned clergyman who has devoted his life to confronting anti-Semitism and furthering Catholic-Jewish understanding, Father Desbois is president of Yahad-In Unum, a global humanitarian organization he founded in 2004 dedicated to identify and commemorate the sites of Jewish and Roma mass executions during World War II. In his Day of Remembrance address, he spoke to an audience of over three hundred about the historic work he and Yahad have undertaken. Yahad has



*Father Patrick Desbois, speaking with Chaplains, faculty and cadets over dinner. Photo credit: Dr. David Frey*

found thousands of previously undiscovered mass graves of many of the nearly 1.5 million Jews murdered by Nazi mobile killing units, known as *Einsatzgruppen*, in the bloodlands of Eastern Europe.

In addition to this herculean task, Father Desbois also serves as director of the Episcopal Committee for Catholic-Judeo Relations, under the auspices of the French Conference of Bishops. And if that were not enough, he also moonlights at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, where he was recently named the inaugural endowed Professor of Practice of the Forensic Study of the Holocaust.

Father Desbois spoke not only of the Holocaust, but of the current genocide of the Yazidi in northern Iraq, showing a chilling short video his organization has created and speaking of the ground level work his organization does with escapees from ISIS. Father Desbois and the head of the American branch of Yahad-In Unam, Robin Masee, toured the Academy and then attended a private dinner with the West Point Chaplains and select cadets and faculty, arranged by Dr. David Frey and Father Matt Pawlikowski. There, Father Desbois spoke movingly of the problems of mass atrocity particularly that he believes is currently being carried out by ISIS.

Father Desbois appeared on the PBS show Metro Focus on Sunday, 24 April, and the work of his organization was featured on CBS' 60 Minutes on 8 May.

### **Colonel Vincent Nyakarundi**

The Center of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the USMA History Department invited the Military Attaché of Rwanda Colonel Vincent Nyakarundi to address the African sections of the required regional world history (HI 108/158A) on the history of the 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda on 22 April 2016. COL Nyakarundi drew on his military experience in Rwanda and as a peacekeeper Darfur to discuss mass atrocities and to inspire cadets to study both the causes of genocide and means of prevention. COL Nyakarundi's lecture, organized by Dr. Anil Mukerjee and Cadet John Mugabe, was attended by faculty and cadets from the Departments of History, English and Philosophy, Geography and Environmental Engineering, and multiple other departments.



Cadets with COL Nyakarundi,  
Rwandan Military Attaché,  
22 April 2016

## CADET PROGRAMMING



On 30 January 2016, 80 “plebes” took part in West Point’s annual **Lorraine Beitler Annual Holocaust Memorial Museum**, a one-day specially tailored visit to the USHMM and meet with survivors. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual visit, meaning that well over 1200 cadets have benefited from this program, endowed by the Beitler Family Foundation.

*Photo credit: Carl Cox, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> year, West Point cadets enjoyed a fantastic visit to Washington, DC, complete with an intensive day of exhibition tours, discussions, and meetings with survivors. It is with great sorrow, however, West Point offers its condolences to the Beitler family. Mr. Martin Beitler, who along with his wife Dr. Lorraine Beitler conceived of and sponsored this program, passed away in early April. His impact on cadet development cannot be overstated, and he will be sorely missed.

## CADET AND FACULTY TRAVEL



*Cadets and faculty participants in the **History Department Staff Ride to Bosnia and Croatia** pictured with a group of Mothers of Srebrenica, at the Potočari Genocide Memorial in Bosnia and Hercegovina, 15 March 2016.*

During West Point's spring break (11-19 March 2016), the History Department, with support from the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, took eight cadets and three faculty to study Yugoslavia, its predecessors and its successors, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The visit focused on the history, memory, and atrocities in the region, specifically in Bosnia and Croatia. Participants traveled to memorials, museums, camps, and historical locations in Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Mostar, and Dubrovnik. Arranged with assistance from US Army attachés in Sarajevo, the trip featured an amazing meeting with seven "Mothers of Srebrenica" at the Potočari Memorial; closed discussions with the US Deputy Chief of Mission in Sarajevo as well as representatives from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Commission on Missing Persons; and dinner with a European Command Civil Affairs team. Preparation for the trip was highlighted by a panel at West Point organized by the CHGS, the Department of Law and the Modern War Institute. It brought together NYU historian of Southeastern Europe Dr. Larry Wolff; the Special Advisor to and former Judge on the War Crimes Chamber at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Honorable Patricia Whalen; West Point Colonel

Liam Collins, who as a Special Forces Captain captured war criminals in Bosnia in the early 2000s; and Sarajevo survivor Ms. Emina Hadzic; and Brigadier General and Dean of the Faculty at West Point Tim Trainor, who served on NATO staff in Bosnia as a planner in the early 2000s. The panel, organized and paid for by the CHGS, attracted over 150 cadets, faculty, and outside guests.

**M O D E R N   W A R   I N S T I T U T E**  
and  
**C E N T E R   F O R   H O L O C A U S T   A N D   G E N O C I D E   S T U D I E S**  
**P A N E L   S E R I E S**

# **Bosnia: History, Genocide, Survival and Justice**

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Dean's Hour 1250-1345  
WH5300

**Dr. Larry Wolff**  
Professor, New York University

**Ms. Emina Hadzic, Esq.**  
Bosnian War Survivor

**Judge Patricia Whalen**  
Special Advisor, War Crimes  
Chamber at the Court of Bosnia

**COL Liam Collins,**  
Director, Modern War Institute



The panel will be joined by West Point's Dean of the Academic Board, BG Tim Trainor, who deployed to Bosnia in the early 2000s.

Sponsored by the  
Department of History  
and Military Instruction

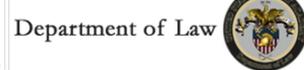
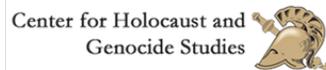


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*Cadet and faculty participants in the 14-15 April 2016 “Law, the Legal Profession, and the Holocaust” program with Mr. Henry Greenbaum, a survivor whose moving story closed the event. 15 April 2016.*

On 14-15 April 2016, 25 upperclassmen participated in a two day collaboration between the Law Department and the CHGS focusing on law and the Holocaust titled **“Law, the Legal Profession, and the Holocaust”** program. This program, now in its fourth year of existence, provides select History Department cadets and cadets from “The Law of War” (LW 474) the opportunity to tour multiple exhibits, conduct discussions with a Holocaust survivor, and hear lectures from Holocaust Museum senior scholars as well as experts from Georgetown and the Simon-Skjodt Center. This year’s iteration featured experts on the SS (Dr. Rebecca Erbelding), Law and Justice under the Nazis (Dr. Will Meinecke), the Nuremberg Trials (Dr. Edna Friedberg), the Law of Armed Conflict (Dr. Gary Solis) and Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (Ms. Andrea Gittleman).



## RECENTLY COMPLETED AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***SUMMER (Cadet/Faculty Travel, Research & Internships)***

- ***American Service Academies Program (29 May – 13 June 2016)*** – Cadet foreign study in New York, Washington DC, and Poland, run by one of the Center’s outstanding partners, the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, which is part of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, a Living Memorial to the Holocaust.
- ***Just War, Occupation, and Assassination. Reinhard Heydrich, Lidice, and Concepts of Justice (29 May-6 June 2016)*** – Four USMA cadets from multiple departments traveled to the Czech Republic, partially funded and assisted by the CHGS to study Nazi occupation of Bohemia and Moravia. Run by LTC Todd Burkhardt of the Department of English and Philosophy at West Point, the program started at West Point with discussions run by LTC Burkhardt and Dr. Frey, about the history of Czechoslovakia and the wartime experiences in Czech and Slovak lands. It then continued in Prague, where the focus was on the assassination of the number two ranking member of the SS and the “Protector” of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich. It included meetings with Slovak officers and Slovak soldiers serving in the unit named after one of the assassins of Heydrich, Josef Gabcik.
- ***2016 Summer Institute on Genocide Studies and Prevention (5-11 June 2016)*** – Dr. Frey participated, along with 18 other select international scholars, in a workshop to plan curricular projects and courses on atrocity-related subjects. The institute selected the participants from over 100 applicants, and occurred at Keene State College in Keene, NH, the location of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.
- ***Munich under the Swastika (12-26 June 2016)*** – Cadet Matthew Babich participated in an independent foreign study in Germany hosted by the *Bundeswehr University* and Dr. Stephan Linder concerning the history of Munich and its environs during the Nazi period.
- ***US Army War College Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute Internships (June & July 2016)*** – Cadet Samuel Jones is currently studying mass atrocity in Africa, primarily working on the development of a Nigeria/Boko Haram case study with COL (R) Dwight Raymond.
- ***Pacific Command Internship (June/July 2016)*** – Cadet Reese Staley was selected as an intern and slated to participate in a five-week research at the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies to create a situation assessment and mass atrocity risk assessment of Myanmar (Burma). However, Cadet Staley was also found to be a bone marrow match for a former cadet suffering from leukemia. Because he opted to donate, Cadet Staley has postponed his internship until the summer of 2017.

## **FUTURE INITIATIVES**

- **"Operation Finale: The Capture and Trial of Adolf Eichmann," Museum of Jewish Heritage (September & November 2016)** – The CHGS and the Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust are teaming up to organize two events. The first, to occur in September, will consist of a panel of American Service Academies Program participants who will speak of how the ASAP influenced their understandings of command responsibility. The second, to occur between September and November, will be a program where experts from West Point and elsewhere speak about "Oaths, Obedience, and Orders" while reflecting on the legacy of the Eichmann trial. More to follow.
- **Yad Vashem** has provided the records of Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds, the first US Army member to be named Righteous of the Nations, to the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and West Point. During the upcoming year, the Center will use these materials to create leadership and character vignettes for use in a range courses. The Center and its partners at the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** will develop similar materials related to other historical figures who made difficult decisions during wartime genocides, to create additional vignettes.
- **Ms. Elsie Shemin-Roth** will speak at West Point in late September 2016 about the posthumous awarding of the Medal of Honor to her father, US Army Sergeant William Shemin, in 2015. She will speak of the antisemitism and racism which prevented the awarding of the medal to her father and to PVT Henry Johnson, who also received a posthumous Medal of Honor in 2015.
- The XH courses are back! Recent donations have allowed the Academy to teach **XH 405 "The Holocaust and Its Legacy"** and **XH 415 "Genocide"** annually for at least the next three years. For the 2017 genocide class is already oversubscribed! Look for cooperative programming with Dartmouth College and the United States Air Force Academy, and progress on the Mass Atrocity Risk Assessment App, in future newsletters.
- **"A Historiography of Early Warning"** written by Dr. Frey and a group of his former cadets will be revised and hopefully published in 2017.
- Planning is underway for the **second presidential lecture** sponsored by the CHGS. Details to follow in future updates!

## **SUPPORTING THE CHGS**

We continue to make progress toward our goal of insuring that the next generations of West Point cadets and other military leaders understand the phenomena of genocide and mass atrocity and have the opportunity to think deeply about prevention. If you are interested in helping West Point to continue offering broad programming, such as that described above, please contact the West Point Association of Graduates' Troy Schnack at [troy.schnack@wpaog.org](mailto:troy.schnack@wpaog.org) 845.446.1558 (office). To find out more about the Center, please contact Center Director Dr. David Frey, [david.frey@usma.edu](mailto:david.frey@usma.edu) 845.938.7643 (office).