

# **Stockton European Study Tour Takes Holocaust Survivors, Second-Generation Survivors and Others to Sites in Germany, Netherlands**

***For Immediate Release; with web and print photos attached, caption and Web site link at end***

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**Galloway, NJ** - Twenty-seven New Jersey residents with diverse backgrounds quickly bonded on a study tour this spring of World War II and Holocaust sites sponsored by The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The group included Stockton President Herman Saatkamp and his wife, Dot, along with two Holocaust survivors, three whose parents were Holocaust survivors and the wife of another second-generation survivor.

They traveled to a number of sites in Germany and to Amsterdam in the Netherlands on a tour arranged by Gail Rosenthal, director of The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, and Dr. Michael Hayse, director of Stockton's Master of Arts program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and associate professor of Historical Studies.

The group visited Munich, where Adolf Hitler began his rise to power; Nuremberg, where the Nazi Party held massive rallies and also the site of the post-war International Military Tribunal of Nazi leaders; the Buchenwald Concentration Camp Memorial; Berlin, the Nazi seat of power

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Krantz was struck by the group's visit to the Anne Frank house, where they were allowed into Otto Frank's office, which is not usually open to the public.

He said the Germans have acknowledged the horrifying human toll of the Holocaust and tried to take responsibility and teach younger generations about it.

Krantz said the Holocaust Museum at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin "personalized it with pictures of families and letters, such as one that an 11-year-old girl had written to her father: "They're going to kill me and I'm scared."

"Another girl writes a postcard on a train going to the camps," he continued, "and she throws it out the window where a farmer finds it. He puts a stamp on it and mails it. They have it" (at the museum.)

"You can relate to this," Krantz said.

He noted that Adolf Eichmann, one of the Nazi architects of the Holocaust, said: "A hundred deaths are a catastrophe, a million are a statistic."

"The Germans have turned these statistics into humans again," Krantz said. "It can't help but move people."

Schoffer agreed: "I'm a bigger believer in education than in having memorials on every corner. But German society is taking ownership of the issue of the Holocaust. They are trying to address it and are dealing with it head-on. It's very thoughtful, very sensitive in how they handle the whole issue of monuments."

Schoffer also said the study tour model may be something the college can expand upon, in other subjects. "We may be able to tie in with other community groups on different study tours to other places, other topics," he said.

Michele Bronkesh, of Linwood, NJ, wanted to make the trip to better understand her husband Noah's experiences as a second-generation survivor who was born in a displaced person's camp in Munich.

"Each survivor deals with it differently," she said. "His family only spoke about the war with other survivors, but it was always sort of a weight on the family."

At Buchenwald, Bronkesh said she saw an exhibit in which one of the pictures resembled her husband's stepgrandfather, whom they knew had been at Auschwitz.

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programs with other universities, inviting German scholars to Stockton and developing internships for students overseas.

Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science and the coordinator of



