

# FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT  
AUSCHWITZ  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

FASPE is under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2010

Contact: Betsy Aldredge / (646) 437-4337 / baldredge@mjhny.org  
Abby R. Spilka / (646) 437-4333 / aspilka@mjhny.org

## **Groundbreaking International Ethics Program for Seminary and Journalism Students** *Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics* **Pilot Program Will Take Place July 28-August 8 in New York, Germany, and Poland**

New York, NY—**On July 28**, a distinguished group of 12 Jewish, Christian, and Muslim seminary students, together with three journalism students chosen by the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, under the auspices of the [Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust](#), will participate in a special pilot program in New York, Berlin, and Poland. The FASPE programs instruct students on the contemporary ethical issues facing their professions — using the Holocaust and the conduct of their professions in Nazi Germany as a framework for study. These students along with professors and religious leaders will work together to develop the curriculum for the program which will launch next summer.

This summer 15 medical students and 15 law students took part in the inaugural program for their disciplines. The curricula for Law and Medical Fellows were designed by faculty and students at Yale Law and Medical Schools. The program was facilitated by faculty from Yale University, including Dr. Thomas Duffy, Dr. Mark Mercurio, and Professor Anthony Kronman, and Amos Friedland. A pilot program for business students will take place in 2011.

The FASPE program for the 2010 seminary students will look at such topics as: *priests in the military and in the Third Reich; the role of spiritual resistance; religion and the Righteous Among the Nations; Pope John Paul II and Vatican II; and the nature of good and evil*. The seminary program is under the direction of faculty from Georgetown University and includes faculty from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The participants include a nurse studying to be a hospital chaplain; rabbinical students from the Reform and Conservative movements; a prison chaplain studying for his M.A. in Divinity; a Catholic seminary student; a German Evangelical Christian seminarian; the director of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, California, who is in school to become an imam; and a Jesuit priest returning to school for a Ph.D. in Theology.

Father John Langan, a member of the FASPE steering committee, is the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Professor of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University, praised the program saying, “I think it [FASPE] provides a lens that forces us to raise questions about institutional blindness.”

The journalism program, which will be led by Columbia University professor Ari Goldman, will primarily be a fact-finding mission looking at the role of the international and German media during the period leading up to and during the Holocaust.

Ari Goldman says, “The way that we write about genocide, the way that we write about corruption, the way that we hold people accountable — these are eternal lessons. So what happened then has lessons for all time.”

FASPE’s goal is to provide tomorrow’s professional leaders with opportunities to increase their awareness and preparedness for the ethical issues they will confront as professionals. FASPE Founder C. David Goldman says that “FASPE raises the question of what roles the professionals played in the Holocaust and what can be derived from them for future professional leaders.”

## **The Fellowship Schedule**

FASPE participants will begin orientation at the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Orientation will include visiting the Museum's exhibits, meeting with Holocaust survivors, and working with FASPE staff and guest scholars. The first leg of the European portion is in Berlin, where the participants will have the opportunity to study the city's historical and memorial sites. They next travel to Oświęcim, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they will tour Auschwitz-Birkenau. In Oświęcim they will also visit the Auschwitz Jewish Center, which is the only remaining Jewish presence in the town that once had a vibrant Jewish community. The participants then travel to Krakow, Poland, where they will explore the city's rich Jewish, Catholic, and Polish history. The participants will meet with Righteous Among the Nations (rescuers), Polish high school students, and religious leaders before returning to the United States. Throughout the program, participants will attend lectures and discussions-. Several of the discussions will include both the seminary and journalism students, and others will be specific to each discipline.

## **About FASPE**

The Fellowships provide law, medical, seminary, journalism, and business students with a structured program of study that initially focuses on the role of their chosen professions in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, and uses that historic focus as a framework for the consideration of contemporary ethical issues.

FASPE is working in cooperation with Jagiellonian University, Krakow; the Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz, Berlin; and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Oświęcim, Poland; and in collaboration with [Yale Medical School](#), [Yale Law School](#), [Columbia Graduate School of Journalism](#), and [Georgetown University](#).

In May, FASPE received a €30,000 (approximately \$38,000) grant for 2010 programming from the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF). In granting FASPE funding for its inaugural year of programming, the ITF said that "the general aims and activities of the project were considered excellent and the ITF is keen to support the continuation of your organization's efforts." FASPE was one of only 11 grant recipients.

List of distinguished partners, supporters, and students, as well as a video about FASPE are available upon request and on the website at [www.mjhnyc.org/faspe](http://www.mjhnyc.org/faspe).

Initial funding for FASPE is provided by the Eder Family Foundation, C. David Goldman, and Margaret and Frederick Marino.

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

The Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is located on the waterfront at 36 Battery Place in Manhattan's Battery Park City. Through groundbreaking award-winning exhibitions, world class education, and public programs, the Museum honors those who died by celebrating their lives—cherishing the civilization that they built and the vibrant Jewish community that is their legacy today, and learning from their history.

###