

Winter 2009

PastForward

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USC SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE

In Perpetuity:
Institute Begins
Massive Effort
to Preserve the
Testimonies

USC
SHOAH
FOUNDATION
INSTITUTE

FOR VISUAL HISTORY
AND EDUCATION

PastForward

WINTER 2009

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On the Cover: 235,000 Beta SP tapes containing nearly 52,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses will be copied in an advanced digital format to ensure both preservation and access in perpetuity. See story on page 6.

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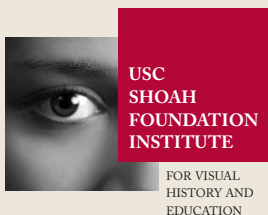
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2009 and Beyond



This year, as a result of the completion of a new strategic plan, the Institute has begun putting into action a series of global initiatives. They will give us greater leverage to advance scholarship and research, support testimony-based education, broaden access to the archive, preserve the testimonies, and acquire new archival content. At the same time that we have refocused our work around these initiatives, we have bid farewell to our Executive Director, Douglas Greenberg, who has become Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, his alma mater.

The Institute's work will always bear the stamp of Doug's leadership. When he began his tenure eight years ago as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Shoah Foundation, his vision extended far beyond its double-wide trailers on the back lot at Universal Studios. Under his guidance, the Foundation adopted a new mission and a practical education

plan, and profoundly refined the methodology for cataloging and indexing the testimonies. We are very grateful for Doug's passionate commitment to the organization, which led to so many accomplishments and—most importantly—led us to become part of the University of Southern California. Working with board members, donors, volunteers, and staff, Doug helped to lay the groundwork that is enabling the Institute to begin its next stage of activity.

Thanks to advancements in telecommunications, the rapid evolution of digital video technology, and our full integration into a leading university, there has never been greater opportunity to share the testimonies

ties being created through support from numerous donors, including a generous endowment from the Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation, which will make it possible for the Institute to reach students, educators, scholars, researchers, and the general public through an enhanced website. You will learn about an effort funded by the USC Office of the Provost to preserve the testimonies in a digital format that will ensure their preservation and facilitate access, as well as about the release of the first testimony-based resource for educators in Austria. These pages will also shed light on the progress IBUKA, our partner in Rwanda, has made as the Rwandan testi-

"Thanks to advancements in telecommunication, the rapid evolution of digital video technology, and our full integration into a leading university, there has never been greater opportunity to share the testimonies with the world."

— *Kim Simon*

with the world, and the Institute is taking advantage of this opportunity through the global initiatives now being implemented. Though they will transform the way we pursue our mission, the initiatives are a continuation of nearly 15 years of work; what began in 1994 as Steven Spielberg's vision—an effort to change the world through the preservation and educational use of Holocaust survivors' and other witnesses' memories—will continue in 2009 and beyond.

The following pages offer insight into some of the ways the Institute's global initiatives are being put into practice. You will read about new opportuni-

ties being created through support from numerous donors, including a generous endowment from the Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation, which will make it possible for the Institute to reach students, educators, scholars, researchers, and the general public through an enhanced website. You will learn about an effort funded by the USC Office of the Provost to preserve the testimonies in a digital format that will ensure their preservation and facilitate access, as well as about the release of the first testimony-based resource for educators in Austria. These pages will also shed light on the progress IBUKA, our partner in Rwanda, has made as the Rwandan testi-

many project enters the planning phase. The name *PastForward* implies a recognition and understanding of the importance of the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses in recording the past and sharing critical messages for the future. It also implies a continuum of activity that began with the establishment of the Shoah Foundation and is being carried on by the USC Shoah Foundation Institute. Thank you for your continued support.

KIM SIMON
Interim Executive Director

Testimony Offers New Possibilities for University Courses



(Clockwise from above)
Dr. Macarena Gómez-Barris,
Associate Professor of Sociology;
Dr. Vanessa Schwartz, Professor
of History; Dr. Colin Keaveny,
Lecturer, Department of French
and Italian.

This fall, students at USC were introduced to testimony from the Institute's archive in an academic course on urban life in Europe, in a course that explored a French memoir about a Jewish girl deported to Auschwitz during World War II, and in a course on the sociology of memory.

"The archive is rich with testimony about many things, not just life in the concentration camps," said Dr. Vanessa Schwartz, Professor of History.

This fall, Schwartz taught a course called "Street Life: Urban Culture in Modern Europe," which included a new unit featuring testimony describing urban life under occupation. Schwartz is now using the archive to prepare for an upcoming course on the history of modern France, which will use testimony to explore



issues and historical events" described in *Dora Bruder*, French novelist Patrick Modiano's memoir of a 15-year-old Jewish girl who was deported from France to Auschwitz in 1942. "In cases where people, places, and events mentioned in the book were also mentioned in testimony," Keaveny explained, "the

testimony was used to continue the work of the book by further excavating forgotten or neglected histories." Students also used testimony to enhance presentations about aspects of life under German occupation. "The testimonies hold so much unexpected information," he said. "For example, one survivor, who was



remembering internment in a Paris camp, ended up talking about young love, which is something any student can relate to."

Associate
Professor of
Sociology
Dr. Macarena

events such as the *Rafle du Vélodrome d'Hiver*, a 1942 raid involving French authorities, which was orchestrated to reduce the Jewish population of Paris.

In the department of French and Italian, lecturer Dr. Colin Keaveny teaches an introduction to French literature course. This fall, he used testimony to "illustrate, amplify, and frame

Gómez-Barris used testimony as part of a graduate course called "Sociology of Memory." The course, which was designed to give students "theoretical, conceptual, and analytical skills in memory studies," gave particular focus to how society deals with long-term effects and traces of genocide, state-sponsored terror, and other forms

of violence. This fall, Gómez-Barris expanded the course to include a segment in which students worked directly with

Holocaust testimony. “It is through visual and archival witness of the enormity of such events as the Holocaust that

one can truly contemplate its effects,” she said.

The courses taught by Schwartz, Keaveny, and Gómez-

Barris are just three of the 80 university courses that have been enhanced by testimony from the archive.

SCHOLARSHIP

Visiting Scholars Explore the Archive

Dr. Jacek Leociak, Assistant Professor in the Institute of Literary Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and co-founder of the Polish Center for Holocaust Studies, is writing a book on the rescue of Jews in Poland during World War II. In August, he visited the Institute to conduct research in the archive.

“Though I have studied written sources for many years, I was never able to work with audiovisual accounts of rescue before coming to the Institute,” Leociak said. “The archive has made a significant contribution to my research.”

Leociak is one of eleven doctoral candidates and senior scholars who visited the Institute between 2007 and 2008 as recipients of the Corrie ten Boom Research Award. Established in memory of the renowned Dutch rescuer of Jews during World War II and made possible through generous funding by the Ahmanson Charitable Community Trust, the awards enabled scholars to visit the Institute for one to two months. While at the Institute, they received train-

ing in the use of its digital library software, access to the archive, and an opportunity to present their findings to audiences at USC.

In addition to Leociak, two other Corrie ten Boom Research Award recipients, Russell Spinney and Andree Michaelis, visited the Institute in recent months.

“I uncovered stories of how people survived; stories of fear, perseverance, persecution; stories of rescue; stories of revenge. The hundreds of trajectories of individual lives helped put things in perspective in very human terms.”

— *Russell Spinney*

Spinney, a doctoral student in Pennsylvania State University’s history department, used the archive to support his dissertation on the German communities of Nuremberg, Erfurt, and Magdeburg in the aftermath of World War I. “The testimonies provided rich detail about how these communities were changing and how people responded to those changes,” Spinney explained. “I uncovered stories of how people survived; stories of fear, perseverance, persecution; stories of rescue; stories of revenge. The hundreds of trajectories of individual lives

helped put things in perspective in very human terms.”

Speaking about the theme of rescue during his presentation, Spinney said, “Corrie ten Boom was the first Dutch woman to be licensed as a watchmaker in the Netherlands...but she is by far more remembered for her efforts to help rescue and aid the survival of Jews fleeing the Nazi regime. Rescue and survival are themes of great importance... [And] I want to further cast our search for the stories of rescue and survival back before the Nazi seizure of power in 1933.”

Andree Michaelis is a doctoral student in the Friedrich Schlegel School of Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. He visited the Institute to conduct research on how survivors use the interview as a discursive space to recount their life histories. “I wanted to watch testimony through the eyes of a literary scholar, regarding the interviewees as authors,” he said. “There is a need—‘obligation’ might be the right word—to work with the archive.”

To view video of recent presentations and interviews with Corrie ten Boom Research Award recipients, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/news/corrietenboom_interviews.

To learn how you can support this effort, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.



Russell Spinney, a doctoral student from Penn State University, shows audience members the geographic locations of the communities he studied using testimony from the archive.

The Legacy: New Resource for Austrian Educators



From left: Barbara Prammer, President of the Austrian National Council, and survivors Dr. Helga Feldner-Busztin, Sophie Haber, and Elisabeth Scheiderbauer.

In May, Barbara Prammer, President of the Austrian National Council, and Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture, hosted an event at the *Abgeordnetensprechzimmer* (the parlor of the Austrian parliament) to mark the release of *Das Vermächtnis* (The Legacy). Developed by *erinnern.at*, *The Legacy* is the first Austrian educational resource based on testimony from the archive. *Erinnern.at*, founded and directed by Dr. Werner Dreier and Mag. Peter Niedermair, is a teacher-education organization of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (Department for Bilateral

Affairs and Department for Political Education).

Dr. Markus Barnay, who co-managed the development of *The Legacy*, said, “As time passes, it will become increasingly difficult for students to conceive of the Holocaust as more than a vague historical event with little bearing on their everyday lives. But through their testimonies, the survivors whose stories are featured in *The Legacy* will help students grasp the reality of the Holocaust as a

Camps; Mass Murder; and Life in Austria after 1945.

“We wanted *The Legacy* to be able to do more than help educators teach history,” Dreier said. “We wanted to craft a resource that will engage students on a deep emotional level, as well as intellectually, and we think we have accomplished this in *The Legacy*; but it would not have been possible without the contribution of the survivors whose testimonies bring the past to life.”

The Legacy’s teaching modules include ready-to-use classroom activities, and separate versions

“The survivors whose stories are featured in *The Legacy* will help students grasp the reality of the Holocaust as a consequence of intolerance, and this understanding may help them make right decisions when faced with moral dilemmas.”

— Dr. Markus Barnay



consequence of intolerance, and this understanding may help them make right decisions when faced with moral dilemmas.”

The Legacy is a two-DVD multimedia resource that centers on 91 video clips from the testimonies of 13 Holocaust survivors. Their memories enhance eight teaching modules that cover topics related to the history of the Holocaust in Austria. Topics include Childhood and Youth before 1938; Flight and Expulsion; Concentration

of each module are provided for teachers of students ages 10–14 (junior grade) and students ages 15–18 (senior grade).

“*The Legacy*’s use of testimony as a core primary source brings innovation and the potential to enrich traditional teaching and learning in the classroom,” said Kim Simon, Institute Interim Executive Director. “When combined with other primary sources, as well as information and mediation, a proper context emerges, and the opportunity for learning—and for connecting to the value of what has been said and seen—increases.”

To learn how you can support the Institute’s international educational outreach, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

Rwandan Testimony Project Enters Planning Phase

“**T**he vision of the Shoah Foundation [Institute] is very similar to the vision of IBUKA, with respect to the victims, respect of the memory,” said François Ngarambe of IBUKA, the umbrella organization representing survivors of the 1994 Rwandan Tutsi genocide. “I am committed to fight so that genocide never happens again, and my weapon is to preserve memory.”

Ngarambe is heading a joint project of the Institute and IBUKA, which aims to collect testimony from Rwandan survivors. “IBUKA has made real progress since partnering with the Institute last November,” Karen Jungblut, Institute

Director of Research and Documentation, said after visiting Rwanda in May. She cited such milestones as the allocation and preparation of a building where future interviews may take place, as well as the completion of pilot interviews with survivors.

The first interview occurred at Nyanza-Kicukiro, a hill outside Kigali, Rwanda’s capital. While videographer Christian Gakombe ran his camera, Emmanuel Gatali stood on the very site of the massacre he survived and described what he witnessed there to interviewer Emmanuel Gasana. Later that day, IBUKA interviewed a second survivor, Evelyn Bankundiye, and the following day, survivor Venuste Karasira gave his testimony. “We plan to collect testimony from thousands of survivors, so interviews like these are an important step in understanding what is needed for a pilot phase of testimony collection,” said Theodore Simburudali, IBUKA President.

Kamuronsi and Freddy Mutanguha to adapt the PIQ from a version developed by the Institute for use with Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. She also joined Simburudali and Ngarambe for a meeting with Joseph Habineza, Minister of Sports and Culture, who expressed his support—and that of the Rwandan government—after being briefed on the Institute and its partnership with IBUKA.

“The enthusiasm with which our colleagues in Rwanda have undertaken this project reveals how important it is to them that survivors be given a chance to share their stories with the world,” Jungblut said. “The Institute is grateful for the opportunity to assist IBUKA, as it endeavors to preserve memories of the Rwandan Tutsi genocide.”

IBUKA and the Institute are now raising funds to be able to begin a pilot project. Once IBUKA has collected the Rwandan testimonies, they will become part of the Institute’s Visual History Archive. “From

“I am committed to fight so that genocide never happens again, and my weapon is to preserve memory.” — François Ngarambe

Emmanuel Gatali (second from right), a survivor from Rwamagana in Kibungo Province, gives the first interview of the GTR IBUKA project at Nyanza-Kicukiro, the site of the massacre he survived.



The project team completed another important step when it drafted the pre-interview questionnaire (PIQ) survivors will complete before giving testimony. “Interviewers will be able to think of specific questions to ask based on survivors’ responses to the PIQ,” explained Jungblut, who worked with colleagues Yves

this testimony, the children of Rwanda...will understand exactly what happened to their families, their parents, their sisters and their brothers,” Mutanguha said, “and not [only] the children of Rwanda but also the children of the world.”

To view video interviews in which Rwandan colleagues discuss the project and recall their memories of the 1994 genocide, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/pr/Rwanda.

In Perpetuity: Institute Begins Massive Effort to Preserve the Testimonies



From left: Sam Gustman, Institute Chief Technology Officer, and USC students Ribhu Shekhar and Badrish Patil help transport videotapes that hold master recordings of interviews with Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. The testimonies are stored on 235,000 videotapes, all of which will be duplicated as digital files identical in quality to the original recordings.

“This is in perpetuity,” Holocaust survivor Isaac Goodfriend said when he shared his testimony with the Shoah Foundation in 1996. “This is something that will be perpetuated in the libraries of the world, and there will be an exchange; because every survivor has a story to tell. And it is not repetitive. Some people think, ‘Well, I have heard this story

before.’ But from every story, you learn a little bit.”

To make certain that there will be future opportunities to learn from these stories, the Institute, with funding from the USC Office of the Provost, began a massive, multiyear initiative to copy all of the nearly 52,000 testimonies in its archive in an advanced digital format, which will ensure their preservation and help to make

“But all tape deteriorates over time, and these master copies will eventually become unusable, which is why the Institute must act now to prevent the loss of the testimonies.”

Over the next several years, the Institute will store the testimonies in a format called Motion JPEG (MJPEG) 2000. “This is becoming the format of choice used to store moving images,” Gustman said, “and the Institute is one of the largest early adopters of this technology.”

In May, the first 15,000 of a total of 235,000 videotapes

“All tape deteriorates over time, and these master copies will eventually become unusable, which is why the Institute must act now to prevent the loss of the testimonies.”
— Sam Gustman



them accessible to a worldwide audience.

“The testimonies were originally recorded to videotape,” said Sam Gustman, Institute Chief Technology Officer.

made a cross-country journey from a vault in the eastern United States to the Institute. Upon arrival, two MJPEG 2000 copies of each testimony

are created. In addition to these replicas—which are stored on servers at a USC data center—copies of each testimony are generated in various formats suited for playback on all types of commercial video players. These formats include downloadable MPEGs, Flash files that can be streamed over

the internet, as well as Windows Media Player files and QuickTime files.

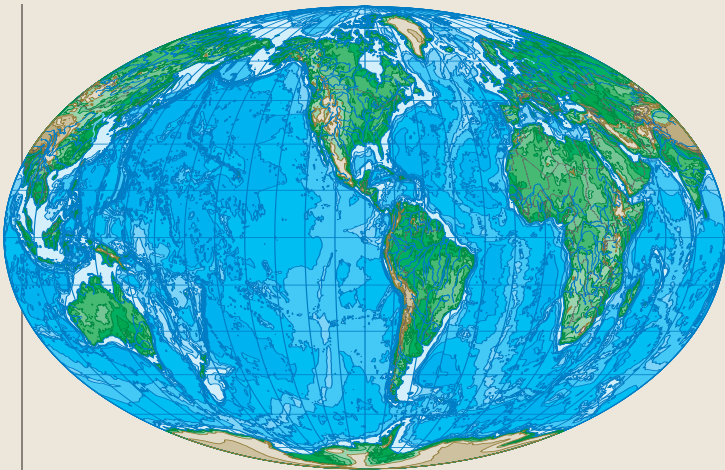
The preservation project will also pave the way for the archive to be stored on servers at multiple research institutions, which will enable more people to access the archive than ever before. “USC has

pledged to preserve and provide access to the testimonies, and this initiative serves both purposes,” Gustman said.

For more information about the project, including quick facts, a Podcast, and a radio interview with Sam Gustman, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/preservation.

ACCESS TO THE TESTIMONIES

Access Across the World



Collections of testimony are publicly accessible at more than 100 locations in 23 countries. Recently, collections were established at the following sites:

- **Center for the Activation of the Young** in Krakow, Poland
- **Facing History and Ourselves** in Brookline, Massachusetts
- **KZ-Gedenkstätteninitiative Leonberg e.V.** in Leonberg, Germany
- **Les "Oublié(s)" de la Mémoire** in Livry Gargan, France

All of the nearly 52,000 testimonies in the archive are available at the following 17 institutions in Australia, Germany, Israel, and the United States:

- **Brown University** in Providence, Rhode Island
- **Columbia University** in New York, New York
- **Duke University** in Durham, North Carolina
- **Florida Atlantic University** in Boca Raton, Florida
- **Freie Universität Berlin** in Berlin, Germany

- **Monash University** in Melbourne, Australia
- **North Carolina State University** in Raleigh, North Carolina
- **Rice University** in Houston, Texas
- **Syracuse University** in Syracuse, New York
- **University of California, San Diego** in San Diego, California
- **University of Michigan** in Ann Arbor, Michigan
- **University of Minnesota** in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- **University of South Florida** in Tampa, Florida
- **University of Southern California** in Los Angeles, California
- **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** in Washington, D.C.
- **Yad Vashem** in Jerusalem, Israel

The Institute continues to connect new institutions to the archive. For an interactive map of sites that offer access to all the testimonies and sites that offer access to testimony collections, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/testimoniesaroundtheworld. To find out how to support access to the testimonies, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/donate.

SCHOLARSHIP

Testimony Enhances a Range of Written Works

Authors have used the testimonies in the archive as source material for written works on a wide variety of subjects. Some of the many publications are highlighted below.

Kerry Buglass

Hidden from the Holocaust: Stories of Resilient Children Who Survived and Thrived (2003)

Christopher Browning

Collected Memories: Holocaust History and Postwar Testimony (2003)

Beth B. Cohen

Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar America (2007)

Svetlana Danilova

Exodus of the Mountain Jews: Destruction of the Harmony of the Worlds (2000)

Paula J. Draper

Canadian Holocaust Survivors: From Liberation to Rebirth (1996–1997)

Jonathan Friedman

Speaking the Unspeakable: Essays on Sexuality, Gender and Holocaust Survivor Memory (2003)

David Guttmann and Zev Harel

Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel (2008)

Kenneth I. Helphand

Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime (2006)

Jeff Hill

Primary Source Series: The Holocaust (2006)

Sheila Isenberg

A Hero of Our Own: The Story of Varian Fry (2001)

Peter W. Klein and Justus van de Kamp

Het Philips-Kommando in Kamp Vught (2003)

Ladislav Löb

Dealing with Satan: Rezso Kasztner's Daring Rescue Mission (2008)

Ilana Rosen

In Auschwitz We Blew the Shofar: Carpatho-Russian Jews Remember the Holocaust (2004)

Therkel Straede

The Volkswagen Jews: Jewish Slave Labour in Nazi Germany Armaments Industry (1998–1999)

Ambassador for Humanity: Kirk Douglas

In October, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and Steven Spielberg honored legendary actor and humanitarian Kirk Douglas with the Ambassadors for Humanity Award at its annual gala event. Douglas was honored for a lifetime of humanitarian service, social activism, and philanthropy that has touched lives throughout the world.

More than 500 guests attended the gala event, which was hosted by Billy Crystal and featured a special performance by Bette Midler.

To view video from the event, visit www.college.usc.edu/vhi/pr/AFH_October2008/event_video.php.

1 From left: Jerry and Natalie Nankin, Anita Hirsch, Rhoda Howard, and Robert Hirsch.

2 From left: Billy Crystal, Kirk Douglas, Steven Spielberg, Wallis Annenberg, and Steven B. Sample.

3 From left: Cydney and Bill Osterman, Helene Galen.

4 From left: Erna Viterbi, Stephen Cozen, Kim Simon, Mickey Shapiro.

5 From left: Bobbi and Marvin Holland, Gloria Lushing.





“Horace Mann said, ‘Be ashamed to die before making a victory for humanity.’ ... I am proud to be here this evening, and I want you to know that I think the Shoah Foundation [Institute] has inspired all of us to become ambassadors for humanity.”
—Kirk Douglas, Ambassadors for Humanity Award honoree

6 Steven B. Sample and Bruce Ramer.

7 From left: Ronald and Judy Mack, Dawn and Steve Mack.

8 From left: Robert Katz, Howard Gillman, Mickey Shapiro, Phyllis Epstein, Erna Viterbi, Steven Spielberg, Bruce Ramer, Stephen Cozen, Kim Simon, Michael Rutman, and Yossie Hollander.

9 Steven Spielberg and Kirk Douglas.

10 Phil and Monica Rosenthal.

11 Bette Midler.

12 Tammy Chase Wright and Michael Kent.

New Funds to Pursue Mission



Michael Skloff and Marta Kauffman



Ken and Wendy Ruby



Jonathan Sobel and Marcia Dunn

Donor Highlight: Marta Kauffman and Michael Skloff

“One of the greatest legacies we could ever hope to leave our children is a world free from prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry,” Marta Kauffman said. “The educational use of the testimonies can help us achieve such a legacy by inspiring young people to embrace diversity, encouraging them to disregard stereotypes, and teaching them to recognize the value of every individual.”

Kauffman and her husband, Michael Skloff, have stood with the Institute for more than a decade. They have provided funding for the Ambassadors for Humanity events and established the Marta Kauffman and Michael Skloff Education and Program Fund, which has enabled the Institute to reach out to educators and students in the United States, support scholarship and research, broaden access to the archive, and increase educational programming worldwide.

“When Marta and I first learned about the Institute and its educational mission, we knew we had to get involved,”

said Skloff. “None of the books, photographs, or films that depict the Holocaust have adequately captured or conveyed its devastating reality. But it was captured in the memories of survivors and other witnesses, and their memories are preserved as testimony that can be shared with the world.”

“It is important to preserve the memories of survivors of other genocides as well,” Kauffman added, “which is why we were so impressed to learn that the Institute will expand the archive, beginning first by including interviews with survivors of the Rwandan genocide.”

In addition to their support of the Institute, Kauffman and Skloff are active in many community organizations, including the Los Angeles Free Clinic, Children’s Alliance, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C., Planned Parenthood, Amnesty International, and Rabbis for Human Rights. Kauffman is on the board of Big Sunday, the largest annual citywide community service event in the United States, an event she and Skloff have supported since its beginning.

“Marta and Michael are making a difference in the lives of so many people,” said Steve Klappholz, Institute Executive Director of Development. “Their example is truly inspiring, and the Institute is honored to have them as its supporters.”

Keeping Memory Alive: Ken and Wendy Ruby

First with the Shoah Foundation and continuing with the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Ken and Wendy Ruby have made lasting contributions by establishing education funds in their name.

“Wendy and I supported the Shoah Foundation for many years,” said Ken Ruby, “and we believe that the work the Institute is doing is invaluable in keeping the memory of the Shoah alive. It was a terrible time in the history of the world, and those who were murdered by the Nazis should never be forgotten. We must never let it happen again, to Jews or any other people. We give so that in some small way we can help to convey that message.”

The Rubys are actively involved in community service and philanthropy, donating time and resources to a number of organizations. Ken Ruby is Chair of the Construction Committee of the Skirball Cultural Center, a member of the Hebrew Union College Board of Governors, and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Board of Directors.

Marcia Dunn and Jonathan Sobel Establish New Fund

Marcia Dunn and Jonathan Sobel, longtime supporters of the Institute, are helping to advance its mission by establishing the Marcia Dunn and Jonathan Sobel Education and Program Fund.

“The testimonies in the archive have a profound effect on students who view them,” explained Sobel, “and their importance as a scholarly resource is inestimable. That is why Marcia and I believe so strongly in the importance of the Institute’s work.”

The new fund will support a wide range of educational and scholarly activities, including the creation of online resources

for educators in the United States and throughout the world.

“Educating young people about the horrors of the past will help prepare them to deal with the challenges of the future,” Dunn said. “As a society, we have a responsibility

to teach our children lessons of tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, and providing access to the testimonies is one of the best ways to encourage the development of these values.”

Long involved in their communities, Sobel and Dunn

made their first donation to the Institute in 1999. They also support Columbia College, Hospital for Special Surgery, the Parrish Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Park Avenue Synagogue.

EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

Erna and Andrew Viterbi



languages, a more user-friendly navigation system, an increase in the amount of testimony of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses

“The testimonies must be available to countermand prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry wherever they exist, which is why the Institute must harness the power of the internet.”

— **Erna Viterbi**

The Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation has made a \$2 million gift to endow the Institute’s website. The gift will enable major enhancements to be made to the site and will provide a foundation for the development of a new generation of online resources, which will meet the needs of educators and students worldwide.

With support from the Viterbis, the Institute will transform its website through continuing enhancements, such as new resources in multiple

available on the site and—once collected—the addition of testimony from survivors of other genocides and atrocities.

“By endowing the Institute’s website, Erna and Andrew Viterbi are making an enduring contribution to its mission,” said Kim Simon, Institute Interim Executive Director. “Their generous gift will drive the evolution of our website as

it becomes an online destination where users everywhere can find practical resources that unlock the educational potential of the archive.”

Erna Viterbi, a lifelong philanthropist and leader in community service, is a member of the Institute’s Board of Councilors. “The testimonies must be available to countermand prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry wherever they exist,” she said, “which is why the Institute must harness the power of the internet.”

Dr. Andrew Viterbi, a member of the USC Board of Trustees, is the inventor of the Viterbi Algorithm, a mathematical formula that has revolutionized telecommunications. “Each testimony reminds us that genocide is a crime perpetrated by individuals against other individuals, which implies an individual call to action—every one of us is responsible for the well-being of others,” he said. “The Institute’s website can, and will, become a vehicle to spread this message throughout the world.”

In addition to providing guidance and support for the Institute, the Viterbis support the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and numerous other educational, research, and health science institutions in California, the U.S., and globally.

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The USC Shoah Foundation Institute counts on your support to continue its important work to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry.

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For more about the event, see pages 8 and 9.

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