Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Winter greetings from the Pacific Northwest! I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you well, having enjoyed a healthy and happy start to the new year.

It has been a busy few months for the Ray Wolpow Institute. In the fall, we launched our new minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGST) and honored the life and legacy of our dear friend Noémi Ban (1922-2019). Her book *Sharing is Healing* is now available online, along with other free supplemental materials. This winter, we are welcoming two new colleagues, who will help us deliver our new program of study and raise our research profile. I encourage you to read on below to learn more about these and other recent activities. As always, I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our events this year.

All the best,
Sandra

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RWI Joins National Leadership Consortium

Last fall, the Wolpow Institute joined the newly formed National Higher Education Leadership Consortium of Directors of Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Centers. Prof. Sandra Alfers attended the inaugural summit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in December 2017, and Wolpow Institute faculty member Prof. Babafemi Akinrinade (below) represented the RWI in December 2019 at the second conference hosted by The Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The NHEC is the primary assembly and professional organization of center directors, who are committed to securing, integrating, and advancing studies of Holocaust, genocide and human rights within the higher education landscape. With colleagues Prof. Raz Segal (Stockton University) and Prof. Paul Williams (University of Nebraska at Omaha), Prof. Akinrinade chaired the session "Relevance and Demonstrating Value of Centers" and engaged in important conversations with colleagues from across the United States.

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Holocaust and Genocide Studies Minor

In October 2019, the Wolpow Institute launched the new minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, making Western the first public university in Washington state with such a program of study. Prof. James Waller (Keene State University) gave the inaugural talk "Why Holocaust and Genocide Studies Matter Today" after being introduced by RWI faculty member Prof. Babafemi Akinrinade. Prof. Sandra Alfers welcomed the audience, among them many friends and family members of Noémi Ban, whose life and legacy has greatly impacted Holocaust and Genocide Education at WWU.

WWU President Sabah Randhawa paid tribute to Noémi Ban's life and legacy at Western, reminding the audience of the pertinence of her work today.

"Although I only knew her for a couple of years, Noémi's attitude towards life and the depth of her wisdom were immediately striking and visible to me, as they were to so many people. [...] Again we can learn from Noémi, who did not advocate for an ideology but for the preservation of personal histories and critical inquiry into the facts in service to promoting our shared humanity." An article about the event from Western's student newspaper is available here.

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Noémi Ban Memorial Collection
To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Sheila Pennell, 360.650.7737 or pennels@wwu.edu. A one week advance notice is required.

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You are receiving this email because you have joined the Ray Wolpow Institute email list. To learn more about Prof. Ballis, including her research in Holocaust and the U.S., please click here.

We also welcome Prof. Anna Duensing to the Seattle area! This renowned Holocaust and genocide scholar will speak at the University of Washington in a talk organized by the Department of History. Prof. Duensing's research focuses on visual culture, identity, and memory in Europe (with a special emphasis on France and Germany). Her interdisciplinary approach includes history, literature, art, and visual culture. She is currently working on a study ofアン・デュッサンス (Anne Duensing) is a professor of Modern and Contemporary German Literature at the University of California, San Diego. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship, teaching, and service, including the AATG Friend of the German Language in Higher Education. With her scholarship and teaching, she contributes to the mission of the German Department at UCSD.

Thank you!

- Use the zoom link to join a virtual meeting
- Use the chat to communicate
- Use the webinar to view videos and documents
- Use the files to access site regularly for updates
- Use the contact form to request an alternate format

The Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity

If you would like to make a difference in Holocaust & Genocide Education at WWU and support the Ray Wolpow Institute there are several ways to do so. Online contributions can be made here. You may also donate via telephone, mail or payroll deduction.

Professional Development Opportunities
Faculty Research & Support
Higher Education & Community Partnerships
Scholarly Programming
Student Scholarships
Noëmi Ban Speaker Series
Minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGST)

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Thank you!