

FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT
AUSCHWITZ
FOR THE STUDY OF
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

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

April 22, 2015

Contact: Eileen Sullivan/esullivan@rubenstein.com/646-467-0674
Thorin Tritter/ttritter@mjhny.org/646-437-4307

International Ethics Program Launches Component for MBA Students: Ties Contemporary Ethics for Future Business Leaders To the Holocaust

New York, NY— The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) is launching a pilot program for MBA students this coming summer. The program will explore the actions of business leaders during the Holocaust as a way to engage students in thinking about the ethical dilemmas they will face in their business careers. FASPE Business, as the program is named, will be co-taught by professor Mary Gentile, director of Giving Voice to Values and a senior research scholar at Babson College, and professor Markus Scholz, endowed chair for corporate governance and business ethics at FH Wien University of Applied Sciences. The program, which grows out of FASPE's work over the past five years with students in other professions, marks a new effort to reach out to future business leaders. "FASPE Business," says David Goldman, the Chairman and founder of FASPE, "augments the growing focus on ethics in business schools and seeks to ensure future business leaders have the tools they need to confront the ethical challenges posed by our global market."

Eight American and four German MBA students were chosen to participate in this fully-funded international study trip from an applicant pool that included submissions from more than 80 students, representing 52 different MBA programs. One of the fellows, Elana Berger, a student at the MIT Sloan School of Management, explained her interest saying, "The FASPE fellowship seems like the perfect way to extend my MBA education and to delve into multifaceted ethical issues facing business people today." Another FASPE Business Fellow, Jacob Shmukler, a student at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, echoes that sentiment. "I cannot begin to predict," he says, "the profound impact that FASPE will have on my thinking on the issues, but I know that it will provide insightful context and a useful framework for considering this central personal and professional challenge." That is indeed what FASPE hopes.

The full list of 2015 FASPE Business Fellows includes: Daniel Abel (European School of Management & Technology), Elana Berger (MIT Sloan School of Management), Liz Bershada (Harvard Business School), Yodit Beyene (University of Michigan Ross School of Business), Trevor Duffley (Emory University Goizueta Business School), Julia Dudda (EBS University of Business and Law), Julia Elkemann (Berlin School of Economics & Law), Martin Fast (FH Wien University), Hugo Santillan (Yale School of Management), Jacob Shmukler (University of Virginia Darden School of Business), Anne Steptoe (Duke University Fuqua School of Business), Megan Wong (University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business).

About FASPE

The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, run under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is an innovative set of programs for professional school students – preparing for careers in business, law, medicine, journalism, and the clergy – which examine contemporary ethical issues, using the Holocaust and the role these specific professions played in Nazi Germany, as a launching point and backdrop.

The FASPE experience offers a more intensive and meaningful exploration into ethics than is available in any classroom-based course in graduate school. FASPE immerses students in history by taking them to the sites where Nazi-era executives, doctors, lawyers, journalists, and clergy worked; and where the consequences of their actions unfolded. It invokes the power of place as a pedagogical tool to emphasize the importance of ethical behavior among professionals today.

Fellows participate in seminars with leading scholars and professionals. They also visit sites such as: the House of the Wannsee Conference, where lawmakers laid plans for the “Final Solution;” the Deportation Memorial “Track 17,” one of the train platforms where Berlin’s Jews were forced to board trains heading to camps; and Auschwitz-Birkenau where over one million were murdered and atrocious medical experiments took place. To view a video, and specific topics that FASPE fellows will study in the individual programs, visit www.FASPE.info.

FASPE was piloted in 2009 and is a non-denominational program engaging participants of all faiths. Twelve to fifteen Fellows from each discipline are chosen annually, through an international application process. FASPE works in cooperation with the Center for Holocaust Studies at Jagiellonian University, Krakow; the Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz, Berlin; and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Oświęcim, Poland. The initial curricula were designed in partnership with leading scholars from Yale Medical School, Yale Law School, Columbia School of Journalism and Georgetown University.

Lead support for FASPE is provided by David Goldman, Frederick and Margaret Marino, and the Eder Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and other generous donors.

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

The Museum’s exhibitions educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Current special exhibitions include *A Town Known as Auschwitz* and *Designing Home: Jews and Midcentury Modernism*. It is also home to the award-winning *Keeping History Center*, an interactive visitor experience, and Andy Goldsworthy’s memorial *Garden of Stones*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall and receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.