

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Three Local Holocaust Survivors Accompanied Students on Stockton Study Tour to Europe

Students Traced the Lives of Survivors Maud Dahme, Ernest Paul and Fred Spiegel

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Galloway Township, NJ- Some lessons are just too important and too far reaching to be taught in a single classroom by a single professor. The history and aftermath of the Holocaust is one of those lessons.

A group of 27 students led by Professor Michael Hayse and Mrs. Gail Rosenthal from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey boarded a plane to Europe on May 11, accompanied by three Holocaust survivors whose life stories they retraced. Over a period of two weeks, students toured museums, historical landmarks, memorial sites and concentration camps in Germany and the Netherlands.

Students toured Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp with Fred Spiegel of Howell, New Jersey. Spiegel is a survivor of multiple concentration camps— one of them Bergen-Belsen. Jen Gansert, a Stockton student on the study tour said, “I have read many accounts and seen many pictures of the atrocities that happened at Bergen-Belsen, but with the lack of any standing structures, the experience would have lacked the human factor for me and that is what Fred Spiegel added to the tour.”

In the Netherlands, the group stopped at a farmhouse, wheat field and the surrounding fishing village with Maud Dahme of Flemington, New Jersey. Dahme was a child during the Holocaust, and she survived by living in what is now a closet in a farmhouse. Dahme explained that when she was six years old, she hid from the Nazis in the wheat field behind the farmhouse.

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Stockton Study Tour/ page 2

Kenan Kurt, a Stockton student on the study tour said, "Seeing the farm and field where Maud was hidden made history personal and come alive. I saw the field where she had to hide under an umbrella when the Nazis searched for her."

Ernest Paul of Atlantic City, New Jersey was a member of the resistance in Hungary during the Holocaust. He was captured and imprisoned. As the group toured Buchenwald Concentration Camp Memorial, Paul shared stories about his wife's experiences in concentration camps. Elizabeth Covington, a Stockton student on the study tour, said, "Meeting Ernest was a wonderful experience and hearing his stories of resistance and hope gave me a new historical perspective. His message of forgiveness but forgetting was powerful and it touched me."

Throughout the study tour, the students documented their reactions and reflections on NING, an online travel journal. Gail Rosenthal, director of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton, was a co-leader of the study tour. She said, "Many of the students plan to be teachers, and this study tour experience will be shared with their students."

Professor Michael Hayse, director of the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a co-leader of the study tour explained, "Students gain a deeper understanding of historical events by visiting the sites where it happened. Hearing from Holocaust survivors added an important dimension."

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