

**PROMOTING PATHWAYS TO PEACE:
TESTIMONY AND TECHNOLOGY AS TEACHING TOOLS
IN THE QUEST FOR DIGNITY**

Hannah Kliger¹, Rakhmiel Peltz²

¹*Communication, Pennsylvania State University, USA*

²*Judaic Studies, Drexel University, USA*

Colleges and universities are settings in our society where value is placed on new skills and new knowledge to promote global competence and potential partnerships between people, communities, and cultures. We describe successful efforts from two sites, Drexel University and Pennsylvania State University's Abington College, that illustrate encouraging developments in transformational learning, resulting from our use of testimony and technology to encourage the appreciation and creation of dialogue and cooperation that restores human dignity as a central value.

At the Pennsylvania State University, a focus on the communicative legacies of trauma has prompted students to analyze taped testimonies and in-depth life histories of Holocaust survivors, their children, and grandchildren, seeking to attain a comprehensive understanding of coping and adaptation. These penetrating narratives and the lessons they reveal not only provide important information about the human response to extreme trauma; they also offer relevant knowledge for the effective treatment of victims of group trauma around the world.

At Drexel University, the Judaic Studies Program completed a documentary film on the life and art of Holocaust survivor Toby Knobel Fluek, whose work underscores the rich life of her youth in Poland before World War II. Utilizing the conceptual framework of educational restitution in the aftermath of trauma, we have worked collaboratively with students and other community members on a website and DVD featuring the artwork that emanates from one survivor's memories. The field of higher education offers a forum, as our two case studies illustrate, to facilitate dialogue and diversity through marshaling and mobilizing pedagogical strategies to point to the resilience and strengths of those seeking a different, more hopeful future.