

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

## 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



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*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](http://www.college.usc.edu/vhi/donate).