SPOTLIGHT
Sunday, 11/11: The Ackerman Center will host “Confronting the Past,” an interdisciplinary and multi-media event that centers around the darker histories of DFW. The event begins at 2PM in the Jonsson Performance Hall and is free and open to the public.

ICMEMO CONFERENCE: ISRAEL

The Ackerman Center continues to promote and support Holocaust scholarship across the globe. Most recently, students and faculty presented their research in Israel at the International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes (ICMEMO) Conference. ICMEMO began in 2001 and has since hosted conferences around the world on museums and heritage issues. This year’s theme was “Memory, Art, and Identity.”

Dr. Nils Roemer, the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies, served as one of the keynote speakers and presented his lecture “The Holocaust: Then and Now, Spanning the Void,” where he discussed absences as important aspects of remembrance which is apparent in families and communities, but often obscured in public commemorations and museums.

Additionally, the Ackerman (continued on page 2)

Dr. Roemer and graduate students Yates and Hashmi attended and presented at the ICMEMO Conference in Israel
Center sponsored two graduate students to present their research through the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund. The students, Kathryn Yates and Sarah Hashmi, were the first students accepted in the history of the conference. Yates presented her paper “The Expansion of the Holocaust Museums in Dallas and Houston,” which considered the context in which museums are framing the Holocaust in America. She focused primarily on Dallas and Houston’s upcoming museums. PhD student Sarah Hashmi presented “Voiceless Victims: Discovery through Data Analysis,” which addressed the lost histories of Sephardic Jewish victims in the Middle East who were deported to death camps during the Holocaust and new ways to examine them using visual analysis.

The conference provided wonderful networking opportunities with prominent individuals such as Thomas Lutz, head of the Memorial Museums Department of the Topography of Terror Foundation in Berlin, Germany and Raya Kalisman, Founder of the Center for Humanistic Education at the Ghetto Fighters’ House in Galilee, Israel. It also featured a combination of lectures and guided tours. Participants visited museums and sites in multiple cities  (continued on page 3)
including the Massuah Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, the Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, the Ghetto Fighter’s House, and the Atlit Detention Camp.

At Yad Vashem, the Ackerman Center students and Dr. Roemer were able to locate the name of Erzsebet Fajo, better known as “Erzsi,” the beloved nanny that saved Dr. Ozsváth and her family’s lives during the Holocaust. Her name is among The Righteous Among the Nations, the collection of non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives to protect and rescue Jews during the Holocaust.