

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3

Partly Cloudy
High 65/Low 50

THURSDAY MARCH 4

Partly Cloudy
High 72/Low 54

FRIDAY MARCH 5

Mostly Cloudy
High 72/Low 52

SATURDAY MARCH 6

Mostly Cloudy
High 59/Low 42

SUNDAY MARCH 7

Mostly Clear
High 56/Low 36

Due to Spring Break, there will not be an issue of the *Herald* next week. The next issue will be on March 24.

Psi Chi Hosted Holocaust Researcher for Spring Colloquium

TIFFANY ADAMS

Editor in Chief

Meredith's chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, hosts a Spring Colloquium every spring. This year, the featured speaker was Dr. Jerome Rosenberg from the University of Alabama. Rosenberg is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and the New College Program.

His primary teaching and research interests surround the Holocaust. He delivered a speech entitled *The Holocaust: A Psychologist's Journey* on February 19 at 4 p.m. in Ledford Hall.

Rosenberg became involved in Holocaust Studies in 1976 when he taught a course on ethics. The journey began when he ordered a book entitled *Out of the Word: An Anthology of Holocaust Literature*.

"It was just unbelievably emotionally drawing," said Rosenberg about the book.

He was surprised that the Holocaust was not covered in his graduate experience. There are examples of unbelievable brutality and enormous altruism. "If that does not encompass the breadth of human experience, I do not know what does," said Rosenberg.

Rosenberg's background and graduate training was in behavioral psychology, which emphasizes an understanding of behavior based on precise definitions. Part of the goal in a behavioral approach is to predict and control behavior.

He explained that in the beginning of his journey as a Holocaust researcher he "did not know how to be a psychologist" but simply became a good listener.

Rosenberg was fortunate to have received a sabbatical from the University of Alabama so he could attend conferences on Holocaust studies. At these conferences he met Holocaust survivors and scholars who became instrumental mentors for his research.

Rosenberg mentioned one such survivor, Lily, who became a great mentor. "She was a feisty, 4 foot 8, and it gave me a sense that feistiness was critical for survival," said Rosenberg. However, he realized most survivors attributed their survival to luck and nothing else, although they all had different stories.

"In the camps very little of what you did controlled your environment...What kept you alive on Monday would send you to the gas chamber on Wednesday," he said of the unpredictable environment in

the concentration camps. Rosenberg discussed the perils of studying the Holocaust from a psychologist's perspective. He said historians are doing

very well since the documentation of the Holocaust is extremely thorough.

"The Nazis truly believed they would win and they wanted it documented," said Rosenberg. He said the Nazis were planning to create a museum about the Holocaust and the Jewish people.

"Being a clinical psychologist, I was trained how to listen without commentary," said Rosenberg. Listening, he said, was an important aspect of his work with Holocaust survivors. He spent dozens of hours just listening to the stories of the survivors.

"The Holocaust in Nazi Germany was perfectly legal," said Rosenberg.

"As a psychological phenomenon, the Holocaust created both a mindset that most

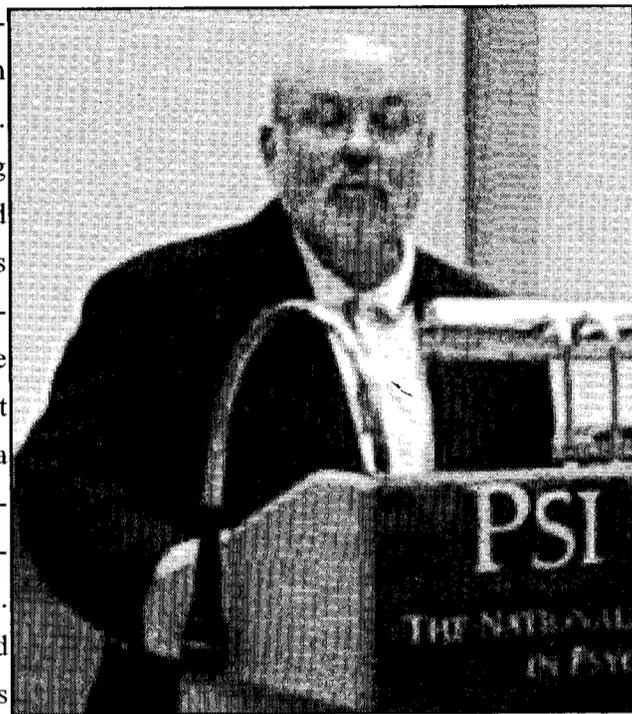


photo by Tiffany Adams

Dr. Jerome Rosenberg.

Nazis felt very comfortable with and also a morality. It was a moral imperative, put in the framework of Nazi Germany, to build extermination camps and put people in gas chambers," he said.

Rosenberg also discussed how the Holocaust defies the concept of universal wrongs. From the Holocaust, we learn the concept of universal wrongs does not always apply in different situations at different times.

The Nazis were able to create this morality because they described Jews as pests. They compared Jews to rats-animals that spread disease. Nazi propaganda used classical conditioning, a type of learning studied by psychologists, in advertisements by portraying images of rats running off the

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