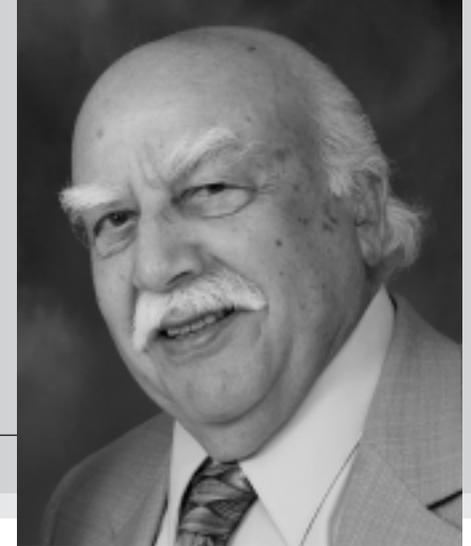




HONORARY ALUMNI AWARDS

Kurt Moses



To Kurt Moses for his courage and inspiration in sharing his experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

When Kurt Moses goes into classrooms his goal is simple—to teach the truth. As a guest lecturer for more than 20 years at both Penn State Harrisburg and University Park, Moses has been spreading the truth by sharing his first-hand account of surviving the Holocaust.

“I feel it’s very important that the message gets to the younger generation,” said Moses, “that they learn what can happen and what did happen. That they should be aware of the Holocaust, and that they do their part to make sure it never happens again.”

Moses was seven years old when he fled Germany with his parents and sister in an attempt to evade the dangers that his father saw at the hands of Adolf Hitler. His father, a German veteran from World War I, saw Hitler speak at a campaign event and was unnerved by the danger in the man’s voice and the overzealous response from the crowd.

While in the Netherlands, Dutch friends tried to help Moses and his

family, but the family was arrested by the Gestapo early one morning in 1942.

They were sent to separate concentration camps. During the occupation, Moses was sent to three concentration camps—Westerbork, Terezin, and Auschwitz. His father died in Auschwitz, and his mother died shortly after being liberated. They were in their early 50s. After the war and the liberation, Moses and his sister immigrated to America in 1946.

“Students ask why no one did anything about it. What did our parents do? What did the world do?” Moses said. “That’s the point that I try to make. That it can happen if you allow it to happen.”

More than two decades ago, Moses was encouraged by his rabbi to speak to college students about his experiences.

“I told him I’m not a public speaker, but he convinced me that it was important,” said Moses. “I was really amazed at how attentive people were, the questions they asked, and that they were interested in what I had to say.”

At Penn State, Moses would speak before standing-room-only audiences of several hundred students. The professor he worked with, the famed Jackson J. Spielvogel, would create an atmosphere in the classroom before his lectures, playing German military music and giving attendees a sense of how life was in Nazi Germany.

“It was a very interesting way that he started those classes,” Moses said.

Penn State Harrisburg honored Moses and his wife, Doris, in 2009 for their lifelong dedication to Holocaust education and Jewish studies at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Harrisburg. Moses’ vision helped bring to completion the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room at Penn State Harrisburg—a place of contemplation and study with an art gallery, lounge, and meeting rooms, including taped oral histories of survivors and of liberators, which are accessible to the general public.

“This part of history shouldn’t be forgotten,” said Moses. “I tell my children, whatever you do, it’s better than doing nothing.”

Moses also wrote a book about his experiences during the Holocaust, *Home at Last: Auschwitz Survivor*. “I felt I had to make sure word gets around,” said Moses. “I felt strongly that I owed it to those who weren’t as fortunate.”

Moses lives in Harrisburg, Pa., with his wife, who fled Nazi Germany shortly after World War II began. The two met in New York and were married within three months. They have two daughters and a grandson.

