

Received from Rob Hamel, 2006 Fellow

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7:58 AM

Dear Tom,

I don't know where to begin, so I'll simply plunge in, feet first.

My Holocaust class finished last week, and I can't begin to tell or show you the impact the summer Institute had on me, my class, and in turn each and every student. We spent a week on the philosophy, psychology and sociology of the Holocaust; we read stories from *A Scrap of Time* and *Smoke Over Birkenau*; I use the historical guidelines offered in your handouts; we visited Springfield and Rabbi Sternberg.

That's not all, though. The interaction among Fellows also helped. I was introduced to "The Sunflower" and used it for a mini-unit on forgiveness. I also visited the Pucker Gallery in Boston with my class for a close look at the paintings of Samuel Bak.

Each day my students entered the class, I hoped to touch them in some way. They left as more thoughtful, acceptable, open-minded, thinking young adults. Each day, I used something from the summer Institute that allowed me to attempt this with a much more solid, focused approach than I ever could have done otherwise.

Know that you and the staff at the Cohen Center, and the College as a whole (for creating and maintaining the Center) are having a profound effect on the world. You pass on information to teachers, who in turn pass it on to students, who will individually pass it on to a classmate, relative, their children or even some action in the future based upon acceptance. Like a ripple, ever-widening and more encompassing, the Center's impact cannot possibly be measured or overestimated.

Thank you all so very much,

Rob