

Professional Development – Public Workshops 2014 Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College

## **Interrupting Genocide**

Aptly dubbed the "Age of Genocide," the past century saw a massive scale of systematic and intentional mass murder coupled with an unprecedented efficiency of the mechanisms and techniques of mass destruction. Unfortunately, the first decades of the twenty-first century brought little light to the darkness as civilians found themselves under attack in Chechnya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, China, the Philippines, and Libya. Recent news headlines speak of genocide and mass atrocities in the Nuba Mountains of Darfur, Burma, Syria, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan (the world's newest nation).

To borrow the words of Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, genocide and mass atrocities are "problems without passports." That is, they are global problems that transcend not only countries and regions, but the capabilities and resources of any one nation or sector. Heeding its mission to remember and to teach, the Cohen Center looks to transform awareness into activism by offering the "Interrupting Genocide: Protecting Civilians from Mass Atrocity" workshop for our community. This interactive workshop will introduce participants to options for preventing, responding to, and rebuilding after genocide and mass atrocity. If each of us can begin to see our brothers and sisters in the world community, no matter how far outside our doorstep, as a priority in our values and life choices, then, perhaps, we can ensure that "Never Again" means far more than "never again will Germans kills Jews in Europe in the 1940s."



## "Interrupting Genocide: Protecting Civilians from Mass Atrocity"

## **Presenters:**

- James Waller Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College
- Mathilde Mukantabana Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States and non-resident Ambassador to Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina.

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014** Centennial Hall | Alumni Center Keene State College

9:00-3:00 pm

\$75 Registration fee includes lunch

Registration deadline: February 20, 2014

Thomas White | Coordinator of Educational Outreach | Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Keene State College |twhite@keene.edu |603-358-2746 **Dr. James Waller** is Cohen Professor Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College (NH). Waller is a widely-recognized scholar in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies. His book on perpetrators of genocide, *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* (Oxford University Press, 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), was praised by Publisher's Weekly for "clearly and effectively synthesizing a wide range of studies to develop an original and persuasive model of the process by which people can become evil." In addition to being used as a textbook in college and university courses around the world, "Becoming Evil" also was short-listed for the biennial Raphael Lemkin Award from the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Waller has delivered invited briefings on genocide prevention and perpetrator behavior in atrocities in Africa for the US Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the CIA Directorate of Intelligence. Waller also serves as the Academic Programs Director with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation.

**Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana** is co-founder and President of Friends of Rwanda Association, a nonprofit American relief association created in the wake of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. Since its inception, FORA's dual purpose has been to expand the circle of friends of Rwanda and to support survivors of 1994 Genocide. Under the aegis of United Nations for Development Programs, Ambassador Mukantabana started the academic program of Social Work at the National University of Rwanda in 1999.

Ambassador Mukantabana is an active Board Member of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Sonoma State University in California and belongs to many local and international organizations including the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the Organization of African Leaders in Diaspora that she co-founded and for which she is currently acting as Chair of the Board.



Wisdom to make a difference.