

JSU remembers Holocaust victims with ceremony today

by Angel Weaver

News Writer

While many people appear to have pushed aside the memories of the atrocities committed against millions of Jews during World War II, others work to keep the memory alive.

The mission statement of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Jacksonville State University states that it is committed to an annual remembrance of the Holocaust. According to Dr. Steven J. Whitton of the English Department, the Holocaust Commemoration began in 1982 as a project of the Wesley Foundation.

"As the only Jewish faculty member at JSU, I was asked to participate," Whitton says. Whitton has been involved with the

program ever since.

The committee has several objectives. One of these is to broaden understanding of the Holocaust on campus and in the surrounding area.

The committee encourages participation in the commemoration by students, faculty, and the community.

Each year, the committee plans a commemoration event. Over the years, it has grown from a short program attended by only a few people to a much larger one attended by as many as 250 people from the campus and adjacent communities.

"Present commemorations include the participation of faculty, students, and community members in the hope that such an event never happen again," says Dr. Whitton.

The annual JSU memorial commemoration will be held Thursday night at 7:30 on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

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The program, sponsored by JSU's Student Government Association, will feature a keynote speaker, music, readings, and comments from students and faculty.

The evening will begin with a welcome speech given by Ryan Kruzinski of the

SGA. Short speeches will be given by Dr. Russel Lemmons and Derek Singleton, both of JSU. The keynote address will be delivered by Holocaust survivor Leon Skurko of Birmingham.

Readings will be offered from the "Imagining the Holocaust" Writing Competition, sponsored by the JSU English Department.

Two musical selections will be performed by Dr. Samuel Brown and Mary Catherine Brown of the Music Department.

The evening will conclude with a Kaddish, a prayer traditionally recited by mourners at public services after the death of close relatives. Students, faculty, and other members of the community are invited to attend.