

I hope this finds you well.

I'm writing on behalf of Sarah Stein, a former U of M student (summa, CSCL; PhD Emory University) who is now an untenured faculty member in English at Arkansas Tech. I am writing in the hope that you will be willing to sign a letter that addresses an issue of Holocaust denial at Arkansas Tech University. Sarah (cc'd here), has asked me to help find additional signatories for the letter. I am forwarding below the message from Sarah that explains the situation, along with the attached letter for which she is seeking signatures. Please respond to Sarah [REDACTED] directly, by April 16, if you are willing to sign.

I have sent the letter on as well to a number of Holocaust historians and scholars at other institutions, but I think that having scholars in Arkansas would also help. You can be in touch with Sarah about others locally who might want to join in.

all best

Leslie

Letter from Sarah Stein:

I am writing to ask you to find signatories for an important letter that the Anti-Defamation League would like to make public should my University continue to honor a Professor who taught Holocaust Denial at Arkansas Tech University. The administration has been given a final deadline of next Wednesday, April 17th to change the scholarship name.

In December Arkansas Tech University, where I am an Assistant Professor of English, named the Michael Arthur Link and May Reid Kewen History Scholarship after Dr. Michael Link and his mother. Michael Link taught History at Arkansas Tech for over 50 years and died in 2016. He specialized in 20th-century history. He is known in the community and at Arkansas Tech as a Holocaust denier, although members of the History Department and Administration will now deny this.

The letter is attached and the bullet points that follow explain point by point the proof of Link's Holocaust Denial and anti-Semitism and the school's unfortunate response to the situation. Deborah Lipstadt has reviewed the evidence and is currently writing an op-ed about the situation. Any Holocaust scholar willing to be a signatory on the letter should get their name and institutional affiliation to you or to me by April 16th. Anyone wanting to see the specific evidence is welcome to contact me.

- In 2005 Dr. Link taught a graduate course in which students were exposed to Holocaust denial literature such as *Debunking the Genocide Myth* and *Made in Russia*, both of which claim that the Holocaust is a fabrication. Students were directed to the neo-Nazi Noontide Press to purchase one of the books. He claimed that this was an exercise to promote critical thinking about the question of whether or not the Holocaust occurred. Several students withdrew from the course in shock and disgust. He was disciplined by the department and not allowed to teach graduate classes for ten years, but they now claim he did nothing wrong.
- He commonly encouraged students in the undergraduate classroom to question the numbers of Jews killed in the Holocaust. In his capacity as a History Professor he taught thousands of students, including many of the history teachers now working in the schools in our area. We cannot even begin to comprehend the impact this has had on our community (a

community where 54 white supremacists were recently arrested, and on March 9th white supremacists held a cross and swastika burning in a nearby town).

- One of his students, Billy Roper, considered to be a voice of "violent neo-Nazism" by the SPLC studied with Dr. Link as a graduate student at ATU. He writes on Link's obit page that he once wrote a "controversial paper for him about the origins of Marxism" for which he received an A and a warning not to show the paper to other professors. *Origins of Marxism* is clearly coded language for a Jewish conspiracy.
- His self-published 1975 book *The Social Philosophy of Reinhold Niebuhr: An Historical Introduction* gives the entire history of Nazism in Germany without mentioning the Holocaust and contains anti-Semitic tropes wherever it mentions Jews. In one paragraph he three times refers to Jews in Germany as primarily bankers and implies that this along with their socialism made them a legitimate political target of the Nazis.
- In his dissertation on the founding of Israel, Link (then named Dohse) again gives an account of Nazism, and states that it would "be foolish to believe that the party's elite believed much of the anti-Semitic material they propagated" and only mentions the Holocaust in the context of noting that the British dismissed accounts of it at the time as "hysteria."
- The University's response when I, Dr. Sarah B. Stein, and my husband, Dr. Robert Vork, presented this evidence and spoke to the Head of the Department of History, the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, and the President of the University about changing the name of the scholarship has been to refuse to do so.
- Since I brought this issue up, I have been personally harassed, cornered, and yelled at by my colleagues. I have had my tenure threatened. Examples include: A colleague who works in the Dean's office told me to "worry about your job and family more than what was right or wrong", and then asked when I was up for tenure. My husband was told that he was "shining a spotlight on nothing."

Best Regards,

Sarah

Sarah B. Stein, PhD
Assistant Professor English
Arkansas Tech University

[REDACTED]

Leslie Morris
Professor of German
Director, Center for Jewish Studies
Department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch

[REDACTED]

Richard D. Sonn

From: Jennifer M. Hoyer
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Richard D. Sonn
Subject: Re: Holocaust denial issue at Arkansas Tech

And thank you for forwarding it!

From: Richard D. Sonn
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Jennifer M. Hoyer
Subject: RE: Holocaust denial issue at Arkansas Tech

Jenn,

Are we supposed to print the letter, sign it, and send it back to Sarah Stein, or simply send it back to her via email? In the latter case, I can print my signature if that would suffice. I forwarded this email to Randall Woods, whose son is a professor of history at Arkansas Tech.

Rick

From: Jennifer M. Hoyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Richard D. Sonn [REDACTED]; Laurence Hare Jr [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Holocaust denial issue at Arkansas Tech

Hi Rick, Hi Laurence,

I thought you might want to know about this. Had you heard about it?

Jenn

From: Leslie Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Jennifer M. Hoyer
Cc: Sarah Stein
Subject: Holocaust denial issue at Arkansas Tech

Dear Jenn,

I hope this finds you well.

I'm writing on behalf of Sarah Stein, a former U of M student (summa, CSCL; PhD Emory University) who is now an untenured faculty member in English at Arkansas Tech. I am writing in the hope that you will be willing to sign a letter that addresses an issue of Holocaust denial at Arkansas Tech University. Sarah (cc'd here), has asked me to help find additional signatories for the letter. I am forwarding below the message from Sarah that