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New RIT/NTID Web Site Highlights WWII Deaf

March 30, 2007

Poignant videotaped interviews with deaf Holocaust survivors, a haunting photograph of a young Polish couple entwined in a last loving embrace, and a book excerpt describing December 7, 1941, through the eyes of a young deaf boy whose school was 10 miles from Pearl Harbor are all part of a new Web site that casts a never-before-seen light on the experiences of deaf people during World War II.

The site, www.rit.edu/deafww2, is designed for students, teachers, scholars, researchers, and historians, and was created by Patricia Durr, associate professor of Cultural and Creative Studies at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

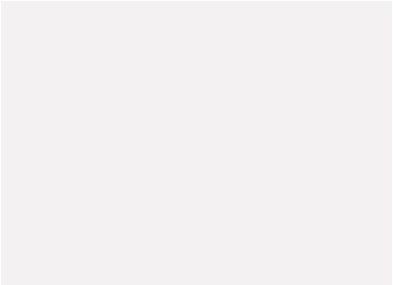
The site was designed by Simon Ting and Cathy Clarke of NTID's Educational Design Resources Department. Frustrated at the lack of available materials when she began teaching a course called, "Deaf People and World War II," Durr spent several years researching and collecting information to launch the WWII Web site, a treasure trove of newspaper articles, book excerpts, scripts, artwork, testimonies, and other materials that focus on how the war affected three groups of deaf people—Europeans, North Americans, and Asians. The site includes videos from NTID, Deaf Mosaic, Yale University, and the University of Southern California's SHOAH Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education.

Durr is passionate about finding others interested in preserving the visual history of deaf people and World War II.

"Their stories and experiences need to be preserved and shared," she says. "Historians also need to examine records, testimonies and history within the context of the deaf experience."

Deaf visitors can share their stories and experiences from WWII for possible inclusion on the Web site by e-mailing Durr at paddhd@rit.edu.

Rochester Institute of Technology is internationally recognized for academic leadership in computing, engineering, imaging technology, and fine and applied arts, in addition to unparalleled support services for students with hearing loss. More than 15,500 full- and part-time students are enrolled in RIT's 340 career-oriented and professional programs,



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Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

52 Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, NY 14623 | Office of Admissions: 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY)

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