Pacific Lutheran University & the Division of Social Sciences welcome students to participate in the annual Raphael Lemkin Essay Contest

**GENOCIDE: What Does it Mean to You?**

Through the efforts of alumnus and Regent Donald R. Morken and colleague Bruce Littman, PLU sponsors annual scholarships in honor of Raphael Lemkin. Lemkin coined the term “genocide” and labored for passage of the United Nations genocide convention, which outlaws destruction of races and groups. The Raphael Lemkin Trust, founded by Irving Young of Haifa, Israel, helps support prizes and scholarships. Currently offered at Yale Law School, Duke University Law School, Hamilton College and others, the prizes serve to inspire young people to reflect upon the issue of genocide and to inform them about Raphael Lemkin.

PLU invites currently registered students to write an essay on the topic of genocide. A panel of faculty members will judge the essays. The first-place essay writer will be awarded a $750 prize; the second-place award will be $250.

Essays should reflect Raphael Lemkin’s ideals and concerns to include such topics as the concept and definition of genocide, ethical and legal aspects of genocide and international law, prevention of genocide and enforcement of the genocide convention, historical incidents of genocide, current events and the issue of genocide or other appropriate essay topics discussed and negotiated between contestants and the faculty review committee prior to the final submission.

Essays must demonstrate that students have read the biographical sketch on Raphael Lemkin (available from any staff person in the Division of Social Sciences or at http://www.plu.edu/social-sciences/documents-forms).

You may submit a draft of your essay, formatted as a Word document and sent electronically, to be reviewed by a member of the faculty review committee, if you wish, no later than January 7, 2015, by 4:30 p.m. One member of the committee will critique your paper, making constructive suggestions. Your draft will be returned to you no later than January 21, 2015, for any revisions you choose to make.

Submit the final product no later than 4:30 p.m. February 6, 2015. Format the essay in Word and send it electronically to Brenda Murray, Administrative Assistant for Social Sciences, at murraybj@plu.edu. The final submission must include a cover sheet, an abstract and the completed essay. The cover sheet is to include your name, a current mailing address, email address and telephone number. Format must follow directions as stated at the end of the biographical sketch on Raphael Lemkin.

All entrants will be invited to attend an awards ceremony on March 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

For additional information, contact Professor Beth Kraig, (kraigbm@plu.edu) or Brenda Murray (murraybj@plu.edu). Telephone 253-535-7595.

Dedicated to the man who named “the crime with no name.”