The Duquesne University
Bayer School of Natural & Environmental Sciences

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Rebellion
at the Nazi extermination camp, Sobibor

Presents a Special Screening of

Deadly Deception at Sobibor

Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 | 7-10 P.M.
Power Center Ballroom | Duquesne University

Deadly Deception at Sobibor chronicles one man’s attempt to understand what happened to his family during the Holocaust. The film follows Israeli archaeologist Yoram Haimi and his efforts to uncover information about his uncles who perished at the Sobibor extermination camp in Eastern Poland. He was assisted in this endeavor by Polish archaeologist Wojciech Mazurek.

In addition to the screening of the film, Yoram Haimi will present an illustrated lecture Archaeology of the Holocaust: Excavations at Sobibor and participate in a question and answer session. A reception will follow.
The Sobibor Extermination Camp

Sobibor, a camp which was part of the Nazi’s infamous “Final Solution” was placed at the rural edges of Eastern Poland. A successful, large-scale rebellion at the camp broke out on October 14, 1943, and 500 Jewish prisoners escaped. Fifty of these rebels survived the war. Following the rebellion, the Nazis quickly dismantled the camp. Research at Sobibor has provided some of the most dramatic and scientifically validated pieces of information about how an extermination camp functioned. Working with Wojtek Mazurek, a Polish archaeologist, Israeli archaeologist Yoram Haimi and a group of volunteer excavators revealed some of the most important artifacts for tracking the history of the Holocaust. Haimi, Wojtek, and scholars from the University of Hartford’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, WorleyParsons, Inc. in Canada, and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania worked over the past few years in areas designated by a unique new system of mapping. Professor Philip Reeder, Dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at Duquesne University mapped the extermination camp that was for all intents and purposes “hidden” by the Nazis to avoid detection. The subsurface of the camp was mapped using state-of-art technology, including ground penetrating radar, to insure that the burials of the victims who died there would not be disturbed. The excavations have uncovered artifacts from nearly 250,000 Jews brought to the site. The camp is being systematically excavated and the documentary “Deadly Deception at Sobibor” shows how technology, conventional field archaeology and the testimonies of the survivors can be used to uncover this hidden history of the Holocaust.
The Film

The film includes interviews with excavators, some of the survivors, family members of the survivors, some of the bystanders, and Holocaust scholars who wrestled with the meaning of Sobibor 70-years after the rebellion. This film is a story of faith and science, which combine to uncover the past that was hidden in plain sight. This is a director’s cut of the film that contains scenes that will not appear in the final version. **By request from the director, can you please complete the “sneak preview” evaluation form that you have been provided.** Completed forms can be deposited in the receptacles in the rear of the room on your way out. 

*Producer/Director, Gary Hochman, Nebraska Public Television*

The Program

**7:00-7:20 PM - Welcome and Introduction** – “The Science of Sobibor” Philip Reeder, Dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, Duquesne University (participated in the summer 2008 research at Sobibor)

**7:20-8:20** – An illustrated lecture by Yoram Haimi titled “Archaeology of the Holocaust: Excavations at Sobibor” followed by a question and answer session.

8:20-8:30 – Intermission

**8:30-9:30** – Screening of the film “Deadly Deception at Sobibor”

**9:30-10:00** – Reception and informal discussions.
The Speakers

Philip Reeder, Ph.D., Dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at the Duquesne University is an environmental scientist specializing in paleo-environmental and paleo-climate reconstruction. He has worked on projects in Belize, Central America, the Philippines, Israel, Spain and Poland. As part of the Sobibor Archaeological Project in 2008 he was responsible for all of the surveying and map production associated with the project.

Yoram Haimi: is the Israeli Antiquities Authority regional archaeologist for the Southern Region, Southern Negev District. During the last decade, using archaeology, he has attempted to uncover more information about his uncles who perished at the Sobibor extermination camp. Haimi is from a Moroccan-Jewish background, is educated as an archaeologist of ancient Israel, and began the quest of a lifetime, intent on uncovering the details of the "Deadly Deception" of the Holocaust at Sobibor.

This event is sponsored by the Nathan J. and Helen Goldrich Foundation, the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, and Duquesne University.