Ten Reasons to Celebrate

In spring 2003, a group of Carolina faculty administrators and alumni banded together to lay out an ambitious plan for Jewish Studies at Carolina — a particularly bold plan for a state-funded research university located in the American South. In the ensuing decade, the goals that were initially considered rather audacious started to be achieved, one by one, with the top goal, a major in Jewish Studies, being accomplished this academic year. Here are our top 10 reasons to celebrate 10 years of excellence:

1. **Renaissance** Many Carolina alumni who have minored in Jewish Studies or who have pursued research projects and courses in Jewish Studies are now making their mark on the academic, non-profit and corporate arenas. Recent alumni have gone on to pursue Ph.D.s in various fields of Jewish Studies, such as Abigail Weiss, who graduated from Carolina in 2012 and is now working on her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, while other alumni have gone into career fields as diverse as non-profit management and broadcast journalism.

2. **Expression** With the support of the Charles H. Revson Foundation, Carolina’s Jewish Studies faculty have been able to give lectures to community groups across the state of North Carolina, sharing their expertise well beyond the borders of the campus and the town of Chapel Hill. These speaking events, which have been held at libraries, schools and local organizations, have been a crucial component of the Center’s community outreach mission.

3. **Connection** Jewish Studies faculty are based in seven different academic departments in the humanities, which gives the College of Arts and Sciences unique opportunities to incorporate Jewish Studies themes into a range of disciplines and between the Center and other units on campus, such as the Program for Medieval and Early Modern Studies and the Center for the Study of the American South. All this in turn has a tremendous impact on the course offerings and extracurricular activities available to Carolina’s students.

4. **Impact** IMPACT On the past decade, faculty have created numerous new courses and revised existing courses with strong Jewish Studies content, with topics ranging from Israeli Cinema to Classic Jewish Texts, Jewish Women in America, Ancient Synagogues, and History of the Holocaust. A new core course, Introduction to Jewish Studies, was introduced in 2009 and now attracts about 100 undergraduates each fall semester and serves as the gateway course for the new major. In 2012, the University introduced a new Capstone Course in Jewish Studies, an upper-level research seminar for advanced undergraduates, which is also required for the new major.

5. **Community** Community Each year, more than 1,000 Carolina undergraduates register for Jewish Studies courses. Some of these students are pursuing a Jewish Studies major or minor, while others are fulfilling their foreign language requirements or simply taking an elective to enhance their college experience. Jewish Studies courses attract a diverse group of students with majors ranging from religious studies to philosophy, history and medieval history.

6. **Education** Education Events. These events have ranged from community lectures and academic symposia to musical performances, film screenings, lunchtime discussions and annual continuing education seminars, with each event delving into a unique aspect of Jewish history and culture. In addition, there has been a growing number of undergraduate students who are participating in research projects with Jewish Studies themes.

7. **Opportunities** Opportunities The Center has hosted more than 80 events since 2003, in addition to co-sponsoring many other campus events and lectures. These events bring international experts to Chapel Hill to enrich the academic experience of students, faculty and the general community. Events have ranged from community lectures and academic symposia to musical performances, film screenings, lunchtime discussions and annual continuing education seminars, with each event delving into a unique aspect of Jewish history and culture. In addition, there has been a growing number of undergraduate students who are participating in research projects with Jewish Studies themes.

8. **Resources** Resources The Center is located in the tow n of Chapel Hill, which has been able to fund grants and annual fund contributions, five endowments have been established by alumns and friends to support the Center’s vibrant community outreach efforts.

9. **Photos** Photos Carolina faculty are among the most talented and renowned in the South. A new Capstone Course in Jewish Studies, an upper-level research seminar for advanced undergraduates, which is also required for the new major.

10. **Success** Success In spring 2003, a group of Carolina faculty administrators and alumni banded together to lay out an ambitious plan for Jewish Studies at Carolina — a particularly bold plan for a state-funded research university located in the American South. In the ensuing decade, the goals that were initially considered rather audacious started to be achieved, one by one, with the top goal, a major in Jewish Studies, being accomplished this academic year. Here are our top 10 reasons to celebrate 10 years of excellence:

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**MEANINGFUL SPEAKER’S BUREAU**

**EXPANDED COURSE OFFERINGS**

**IMPACT ON CAMPUS CULTURE**

**PROMISING UNDERGRADUATES**

**ENLIGHTENING PUBLIC EVENTS**

**TALENTED GRAD STUDENTS**

**RENOVED FACULTY**

**GROUNDBREAKING MAJOR**

**OUTSTANDING FRIENDS**

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**SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI**

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

**STUDENTS**

**FACULTY**

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**AND ONE MORE REASON…**

An ambitious plan for the future of Jewish Studies.