



Private Gifts Support the Next Phase of Growth

LAUNCHING NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Center is making a huge impact on campus this year by launching the new undergraduate degree in Jewish Studies and a new certificate in Jewish Studies for graduate students, and introducing the University's new Capstone Course in Jewish Studies, an upper-level research seminar for advanced undergraduates in the field.

Beginning this semester, students at Carolina can make the study of Jewish history and culture the centerpiece of their undergraduate experience. The degree program is offered through the Department of Religious Studies, where students will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a Concentration in Jewish Studies. This is the first undergraduate degree program in Jewish Studies to be offered by an institution in the state of North Carolina. In this newsletter, you will meet Hayley Wright, '13, Carolina's very first student to declare Jewish Studies as a major.

Also beginning this semester, a new certificate is available to graduate students who are working in the field of Jewish Studies. The program is available to degree seeking graduate students studying in the humanities and social sciences at Carolina. It includes opportunities for graduate students to explore Jewish languages, culture,

*Continued on page 6. See **New Programs***

Several philanthropic gifts to the Center in recent months will have a profound impact on Carolina's students, faculty and the Jewish Studies program overall.

An anonymous donor has committed \$250,000 to create an endowment for graduate student support in Jewish Studies in the name of the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. Carolina's ability to recruit and support the best and brightest graduate students will further its reputation as a university that produces up-and-coming teacher-scholars in the field that go on to become faculty at leading colleges and universities worldwide. The new Tau Epsilon Phi Fund for Jewish Studies will support graduate students working on topics in Jewish Studies in varying stages of their academic careers.

Gene, '53, and Saralyn, '53, Oberdorfer have committed to a planned gift to be made from their retirement plan assets, estimated in excess of \$400,000, to establish a flexible endowed fund to support Jewish Studies. The unrestricted endowment will enable the Center's director to meet pressing needs and fund important programs and research in Jewish Studies. Flexible funding of this type helps meet unanticipated future needs and opportunities so that the program remains vital.

Another planned gift that will provide a significant impact was made by Joseph Kittner, '37, LLB '39, who was a steady friend of the Center, making annual gifts to the Fund for Jewish Studies throughout his lifetime. As a result of his thoughtful planning, the Center received a direct gift from his estate of more than \$210,000. In addition, he established a testamentary trust for a family

member that will ultimately result in an additional gift of approximately \$500,000 to the program in future years. These gifts will be available to provide support for faculty and students.

Also this year, Eli N. Evans, '58, founding chair of the Center's advisory board, made a gift of \$100,000 to the existing endowment fund for the Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lectureship Fund, which will ensure that the lecture series continues in perpetuity. The Evans lectureship brings nationally renowned scholars and interpreters of Jewish history, culture and experience to campus to speak with students, faculty and the general public.



Eli Evans with Geza Vermes, who gave the Evans lecture in September 2009

"The generosity of these donors will further expand our academic and community programs, and will help Jewish Studies maintain its level of excellence during its next phase of growth," said Jonathan Hess, director. "The use of planned giving vehicles and retirement assets gives our friends and alumni many options for taking care of their family's beneficiaries while also establishing important charitable gifts to the Center."

To learn more about making a gift to the Center, and how planned giving tools can be utilized, contact Margaret Costley at the Arts and Sciences Foundation: 919-843-0345 or Margaret.costley@unc.edu.

This year's Evans lecture will bring a truly unique event to Chapel Hill, featuring David Mandelbaum in a one-man stage performance. Titled *Yosl Rakover Speaks to G-d*, and performed in Yiddish with English subtitles, the show explores the final testament of a Jew named Yosl Rakover, who examines his relationship with God during the end of the Warsaw ghetto. The event is on April 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the UNC Friday Center. It is free and open to the public.



Dr. Jonathan M. Hess
Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin
Distinguished Professor of
Jewish History and Culture

Professor, Department of Germanic and
Slavic Languages and Literatures

jmhess@email.unc.edu
(919) 962-4866

From the Director's Desk *Anniversary Celebrations... and a Challenge*

This year marks an historic juncture for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. As we gear up for our 10th anniversary, we celebrate the fact that we are the first and only university in the state of North Carolina to offer an undergraduate degree in Jewish Studies. And with our graduate certificate in Jewish Studies now on the books, we are well poised to play a leading role in the training of graduate students in Jewish Studies as well. We've clearly had tremendous success with our public events over the course of the last decade. Our events program for our 10th anniversary year, however, is even more ambitious, with two dramatic performances, a film screening with original music composed by Carolina students, and public lectures on a variety of topics by leading scholars from all over the world.

Our goal this year is not just to celebrate what we've accomplished but to lay out our vision for the future. Our major strategic goal for our first decade was to assemble a comprehensive faculty in Jewish Studies through a combination of private giving and state funding, and since 2003, the College has recruited nine new Jewish Studies faculty in five different academic departments. More than 1,000 undergraduates now take Jewish Studies courses each year at Carolina, and these students represent as diverse a cross-section of the population as one finds in any other program on campus. We have

remarkable students at Carolina. In the coming decade we look forward to building a program that serves their needs with even more opportunities for student research in Jewish Studies, even more courses taught by even more faculty in Jewish Studies, and graduate fellowships that help Carolina recruit the very best students in the nation to pursue their doctoral training in Chapel Hill.

Major gifts have played an important role in what we've been able to accomplish over the last decade. But so has annual giving, and we owe a tremendous amount of thanks to all the alumni and friends who have supported us—whether with an annual gift of \$50, \$500 or \$5,000. Indeed, annual giving has been so essential to the success of Jewish Studies at Carolina that we have created a special challenge for our 10th anniversary. We are asking all donors to help double annual support giving this year by increasing their giving level and by sharing the Center's success story with others who may have an interest in Jewish Studies at Carolina.

Please know how grateful we are for the inspiring support for Jewish Studies that our alumni and friends have shown us over the last 10 years. And please know what a tremendous difference your continued support will make as we embark on the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies's second decade!

news briefs

THE UHLMAN FAMILY SEMINAR, scheduled for April 13, 2013, will focus on the theme of New Directions in Holocaust Research. Seminar speakers include Carolina's Christopher Browning, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of History, and four of his recent graduate students: Michale Meng, Waitman Beorn, Patrick Tobin, and Richards Plavnieks. For event details and registration information, visit the events page on ccjs.unc.edu.



Southern Jews in the Crucible of Civil Rights was the topic of our first community lecture this academic year. The lecture, held on September 12th, was this year's Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South.



On September 29th, the Center hosted a unique staged reading of *Boged: An Enemy of the People*. The Center is hosting an expanded public events program this year; please see the back cover for upcoming events.

Faculty Profile | *Jodi Magness*

"I knew at age 12 that I wanted to be an archaeologist," said Jodi Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism, Department of Religious Studies. "I remember being at Girl Scout camp and coming home with suitcases stuffed full of fossil shells. And then in seventh grade, I had a wonderful history teacher who made me fall in love with Ancient Greece. When I was 16, I moved to Israel on my own to finish high school, and that just sealed my fate."

Her aspirations led her first to Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she earned her B.A. in archaeology and history, then to the University of Pennsylvania for her Ph.D. in classical archaeology. She was the Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at Brown University before joining the faculty at Tufts University, where she taught for 10 years before coming to Carolina.

"My move to Carolina gave me two new experiences. First, I suddenly had many colleagues working in archaeology, where at Tufts, I was the one and only full-time archaeologist on the faculty. Second, Carolina's Ph.D. program gave me the opportunity to work closely with outstanding graduate students," said Magness. "Last year, both of my graduate students who were looking for faculty positions were able to secure full-time, tenure-track positions, which is amazing in today's economy. One is now at Brigham Young University and the other is at the University of Missouri-Columbia."

Professor Magness has been on more than 20 different archaeological excavations in her career, but this summer's findings at Huqoq still managed to deliver a few surprises to this veteran. Namely, the discovery of stunning mosaics on an ancient synagogue's floor.

"For my current project, I spent a long time searching for a site. I wanted a very specific location that was never before excavated, and that hopefully would have a synagogue. When I first visited Huqoq, an ancient village near the home of Jesus in his adult years and the birthplace of Mary Magdalene, it was covered in rocks and weeds."

Professor Magness and her team started working at Huqoq in 2011 and plan to continue for several more years. In summer 2011, the team located the exterior wall of a synagogue, which was constructed of huge stone blocks. This past summer, her team continued to excavate and reached the synagogue's floor, which was paved with mosaics. One area contains an inscription flanked by female faces, and another section shows Samson and the foxes, an episode related in Judges 15:4.

Her team is comprised mainly of students, who receive course credit for their work and for the lectures, field trips and on-site how-to training offered by Professor Magness. "The students learn a lot, and have wonderful opportunities. For example, the face in the mosaic was the first part of the floor that was uncovered, and it was found by an undergraduate."

Professor Magness is the author of several books, including *The Archaeology of the Holy Land: From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest*, which was released this fall, and *Stone and Dung, Oil and Spit: Jewish Daily Life in the Time of Jesus* (2011), *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine* (2003) and *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2002).

She is also highly sought after by the media. She has appeared in and provided expertise for productions for the National Geographic Channel, the History Channel, PBS, and the BBC. This summer she will appear in a new IMAX 3D production titled *Jerusalem* (jerusalemthemovie.com). And on January 28th, she will give a community lecture hosted by the Center. It is free and open to the public, and will be held at the UNC Friday Center starting at 7:30 p.m.

Through the years, Professor Magness has received numerous awards and honors for her work, including a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for college teachers in 2000 and the Archaeological Institute of America's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2008. To learn more about Professor Magness, visit: www.JodiMagness.org.



Professor Magness's ninth-grade yearbook photo also lists her career ambition.



In 1976, with a cooking pot discovered at Qasarwet, in northwest Sinai.



Teaching her students during a field trip to Beth Shean during the Huqoq summer course in 2011.

BELOW: Professor Magness and some of her students with the stunning Huqoq mosaics, discovered in 2012.



Huqoq photos by James Haberman

Honor Roll of Donors to the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences gratefully thanks the donors who have supported its students, faculty, and programs throughout the Center's history. The Center's Honor Roll recognizes donors who made gifts during this period to support its expendable or endowed fund. This list has been prepared with great care to ensure its accuracy. To report a mistake, please contact Margaret Costley at (919) 843-0345 or Margaret.Costley@unc.edu. Thank you, once again, for generously supporting the work of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

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10 Years of
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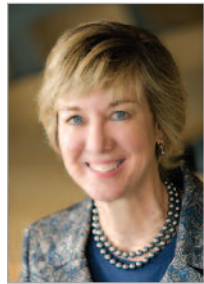
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Karen M. Gil
Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Message From the Dean

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to outstanding teaching, scholarship and community engagement through the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

The College is emerging from a period of economic challenge in remarkably strong shape. Last year our faculty attracted more than \$98 million in external contracts and grants, our new state budget allocation is stable for the first time since 2008, and, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends like you, the College raised \$52 million in private gifts last fiscal year.

At Carolina, Jewish Studies trains students to think globally, historically and in interdisciplinary terms.

With your support, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has made remarkable gains. In May, we will celebrate the graduation of UNC's first Jewish Studies major — from the only institution of higher education to offer such a degree in North Carolina! Reaching this ambitious goal

in the Center's first 10 years is an amazing accomplishment.

Your steadfast commitment also has made it possible for the Center to assemble a comprehensive faculty in Jewish Studies. As a result, Carolina is well on its way to becoming a national leader, enhancing understanding of Jewish history and culture here on campus and in the world.

Your support remains critical for the Center to reach its goals for the next 10 years. Significant funding for graduate students is especially important, so that Carolina can produce a new generation of leading teachers and scholars in Jewish Studies.

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is essential to the academic mission of the University and the College — to foster innovative learning, discovery and community engagement. Indeed, the Center's vitality derives from stellar teaching, research and service that are far more integrated into the liberal arts than in many other Jewish Studies programs. At Carolina, Jewish Studies trains students to think globally, historically and in interdisciplinary terms.

Jewish Studies at Carolina would not be where it is today without you. Thank you for your support now and in the future. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies continues to soar.

New Programs (continued from page 1)

literature and history in both their coursework and research endeavors.

The new Capstone Course offered this semester, *Literature and Jewish Modernity*, explores key texts of Jewish literature produced in Europe, North America, North Africa and the Middle East from the 19th century to the present. Group discussions focus on the field of modern Jewish literature that emerged in the 19th century, encompassing literature written in English, French, Danish, German, Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic, Ladino,

Russian and Yiddish and translated into a variety of languages to reach a broad transnational readership. The Capstone Course is required for those pursuing the new undergraduate degree program and is also open to non-major students. It is a new course that will be offered each fall semester and will feature different instructors and a range of topics, but will always delve into a compelling aspect of Jewish Studies.

For more information on the academic programs, visit: ccjs.unc.edu

student profile | **Hayley Wright, '13**

Last spring, Hayley Wright, '13 took pen to paper and became the first declared major in Jewish Studies at Carolina. For the New York City native, the decision capped a mounting interest in the field that had grown since her days as a first-year student.

Although she always planned to study Hebrew for her foreign language, she found herself taking more and more classes in Jewish Studies. Soon, she was working on a minor, and by the end of her sophomore year she learned about the upcoming new major in Jewish Studies.

"Our people are so interesting," Wright explains about her academic focus. "Through the Center, I've been able to learn about myself and where I'm from." She is quick to add, though, that "Jewish Studies is not just for Jewish people. I would encourage anyone on this campus to take a course."

The greatest asset to Carolina's Jewish Studies program — and Wright's motivation for the major — has been the faculty. "What really makes the program is the professors," Wright observes. "They care, take time, and work with students."

This semester, Wright is working closely with Professor Hess on an independent study project that incorporates her experiences during a life-changing trip this past summer through Eastern Europe with her synagogue. The youngest in the travel group, Wright recalls, "It was my first trip abroad without my mom and dad, but I had plenty of 'mothers' by the end."

From the cultural jewels of Budapest and Prague to the centers of mourning in Warsaw and Auschwitz, Wright's journey took her through the center of the once thriving Jewish communities of Europe and left her thankful for her Jewish Studies background.

"I still had many questions after it ended," Wright says of her trip, "but it all felt more put together. I still found myself asking, 'Why?'"

Her independent study course is allowing her the opportunity to work through many of these challenging questions. Her project focuses on the role of shoes in Holocaust memorials from the banks of the Danube to the waters of the Potomac.

The recurrence of these personal objects and their symbolic importance has inspired Wright to think more generally about memorials of the Holocaust around the world.

Wright describes Jewish Studies as one part of her identity. The other is musical theater. She will graduate with a second major in Drama and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the student-run acting troupe the Pauper Players. After graduation, she plans to audition for theater roles when she returns to New York City.

Though Wright is uncertain what role her Jewish Studies major will play in this future, she notes, "It's shaped me as a person — and that will help me in any career."

The two interests may be closer than they seem. While in Krakow this summer, Wright attended a Shabbat service at the local synagogue. Confronted with the loud chatter of many local

"Through the Center, I've been able to learn about myself and where I'm from."



Hayley in Berlin, summer of 2012.

women, Wright and others went outside where an impromptu second service was underway. Recognizing the Hebrew hymns being sung, Wright spontaneously joined the group.

On a warm Friday evening outside the walls of a Polish synagogue, Hayley Wright, a UNC Drama and Jewish Studies double major from New York City, felt at home in song.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY LECTURES

Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
CAROL NEWSOM
Demons and Angels in Early Judaism

Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
JODI MAGNESS
Excavations in the Ancient Village
and Synagogue of Huqoq

Mar. 4, 7:30 p.m.
SHARON PUCKER RIVO
Breaking Home Ties, film screening
with live music

Apr. 14, 3:00 p.m.
DAVID MANDELBAUM
Yosl Rakover Speaks to G-d, stage
production

Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.
JAMES KUGEL
The Dead Sea Scrolls and the
Beginnings of Biblical Interpretation

ACADEMIC LECTURES

Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
SHAUL MAGID
Beyond Monotheism?

Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m.
RACHEL ELIOR
Who Wrote the Scrolls, and Why?

Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.
KATHARINA VON KELLENBACH
Absolved from the Guilt of the Past?

Please visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu for more event information. If you'd like to receive updates about upcoming events, please join our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu. In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Fund for Jewish Studies Challenge 2012-2013

Since its founding in 2003, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has pursued a bold mission to build a leading Jewish Studies program on the campus of a large public research university. Thanks largely to private support from alumni and friends, Carolina's Jewish Studies faculty has grown to 15, which has allowed the Center to expand the Jewish Studies academic and community programs at a truly remarkable pace.

The Center's success in its first 10 years could not have been possible without the generous support of Carolina alumni and friends. The Center depends on private support in order to fully realize its mission, and generous donations have established endowed

faculty chairs, supported graduate students, sponsored student and faculty research, and underwritten dynamic public programs. Now, as the Center embarks on its second decade of excellence, private support will have an even greater impact.

The Fund for Jewish Studies is a key component to the Center's overall fund-raising program.

The unrestricted dollars provided by alumni and friends have a tremendous impact on students and programs. In fact, the annual fund is so essential to the success of the program, that the Center has created a special anniversary challenge for annual fund



The annual fund is so essential to the success of the program that the Center has created a special anniversary challenge: help double annual fund support this year by increasing your giving level and by sharing the Center's success story with others who may have an interest in Jewish Studies at Carolina.

donors and prospective donors: help the Center double its annual fund support this year by increasing your giving level over last year's gift and by sharing the Center's success story with friends, colleagues and neighbors who may have an interest in Jewish Studies at Carolina. Gifts at all levels are essential for the Center to maintain its reputation for excellence while expanding its academic and public

outreach programs for future generations. Please use the enclosed gift envelope to make your donation, or make an online gift to Fund #7361 at ccjs.unc.edu.

Together we can meet this special 10th anniversary challenge. Thank you for considering the Center as a beneficiary of your philanthropy.