

Investing in Students and their Exceptional Research

Research topics explored by Carolina students have ranged from Jewish communities in Moldova and Jewish-American composer Kurt Weill, to Jewish and Islamic schools in North Carolina, Holocaust survivors in Lithuania, and Israeli medical centers. Our students have traveled extensively—to Ethiopia, France, Ukraine, Germany and Israel—in pursuit of knowledge. And they have spent countless hours studying collections in leading libraries and museums, including YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, National Library in Jerusalem, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress, and the Galicia Jewish Museum.

Their research topics and travel destinations are as diverse and individualized as the students themselves, but one thing remains constant—

they need funding to pursue these projects, to travel to information sources and often to spend weeks out of town. In just the past two years, the Center has provided 30 research and travel grants, but is unable to fully fund all of the worthy grant requests. With the increasing number of students interested in Jewish studies, the need for support will continue to grow. To read more about the students and their research projects visit jewishstudies.unc.edu.

To further illustrate the breadth of their research, we asked some of the students who received funding for the summer of 2015 to write about their projects:

Linguistic Minorities in Concentration Camps / ROBIN BULLER, *Dept. of History*



BULLER

“I was fortunate to receive the Center’s summer stipend in support of my research on multilingualism during the Holocaust. My project utilizes the experience of Greek Jews as a case study to shed light on the consequences of belonging to a linguistic minority in Nazi concentration camps. Thanks to the generosity of the Center and the Jackie O. Spies and Family Jewish Studies Fund, I traveled to Greece to take language courses at the Athens Centre and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and I

accessed the archives of the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens and the Research and Documentation Centre of the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki.”

Berlin’s Transformation / SCOTT KRAUSE, *Dept. of History*



KRAUSE

“My research examines Berlin’s transformation from the capital of Nazi Germany to a symbol of freedom and resilient democracy in the Cold War. My research has unearthed how this remarkable development derived from a network of liberal American occupation officials and returned émigrés, or remigrés, of the formerly Marxist Social Democratic Party. The Center’s funding has allowed me to research motivations for their return in Dutch and German archives this summer.”

Workmen’s Circle in the American South / JOSH PARSHALL, *Dept. of American Studies*



PARSHALL

“A summer research fellowship from the Center has allowed me to do crucial archival research and to devote my full summer to dissertation research, which focuses on the history of the Arbeter Ring (Workmen’s Circle) in

— Continued on page 2 —

EXPERIENCING HUQOQ

Under the direction of the Center’s Jodi Magness, excavations this summer in the Late Roman (fifth

century) synagogue at Huqoq, an ancient Jewish village in Israel’s Lower Galilee, have revealed stunning new mosaics that decorated the floor. In 2012, a mosaic showing Samson and the foxes (as related in the Bible’s Judges 15:4) was first discovered in the synagogue’s east aisle. The next summer, a second mosaic was found that shows Samson carrying the gate of Gaza on his shoulders (Judges 16:3). A mosaic discovered in 2013 and 2014 depicts human and animal figures, including battle elephants. This summer, additional portions of this mosaic were uncovered, as well as the rest of a mosaic immediately adjacent to it, which is connected with a Hebrew dedicatory inscription. New digging has

revealed that the inscription is in the center of a large square panel with human figures, animals and mythological creatures. This summer’s excavations also brought to light columns inside the synagogue that are covered with plaster and painted ivy leaf designs.

The Center is providing essential, multi-year sponsorship support to the Huqoq dig as well as research and travel grants to individual students. Joining the dig requires funds for international airfare, room and board, and for undergraduates, tuition fees for the six-credit course. For many students, private grants are necessary in order to participate in this life-changing experience in Israel.



Mosaic
discovered
in 2015.

Some of the students who received funding for the 2015 dig wrote to the Center from the field in June, just as they were beginning the dig season:

“Thanks to the generous grant I received from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, I have returned to the archaeological site of Huqoq, where I am an area supervisor. For the 2015 season, I am excavating the courtyard adjacent to the medieval public building and Byzantine synagogue to relate these structures with the courtyard and its cistern.

As I write this, we are just starting to excavate medieval material. Thanks again to the Center and the donors for supporting our project.” —

BRIAN A. COUSSENS, *graduate student, Dept. of Religious Studies*

— Continued on back page —

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Graduate Students are the Future of Jewish Studies



Ruth von Bernuth

Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Associate Professor, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

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

Supporting graduate students makes a lasting impact on research in the field of Jewish studies and on teaching Jewish studies, not only when the students are at Carolina, but also as they move along in their careers. Their work helps to broaden our ideas of Jewish history and culture and it brings fresh ideas into the classroom. We now have about 20 graduate students at Carolina who have research interests in Jewish studies, and with this expanding number comes more responsibility for supporting their studies and projects.

To support the students interested in Jewish Studies, the Center's faculty members meet regularly with students for small-group seminars and other discussions, and we offer recruitment fellowships and travel and research grants, including the new Christopher Browning Holocaust research and travel grant. You get a glimpse of the research activities of our current students in this newsletter.

One of the most popular grants is the year-long dissertation fellowship, which allows graduate students to spend an entire year focusing on research and writing. (Sarah Workman has the fellowship this year; you can read about her in this edition of the newsletter.) Initially, this fellowship was supported

by a multi-year private gift, but now we are using general, unrestricted funds to continue offering this opportunity and we thank all our donors for their generous support. We plan to continue offering this fellowship, but more funding is needed in order to sustain it long term, and we also are in need of funding for our other grants, since we receive far more requests for funding than we can support.

An excellent graduate student education for future scholars in Jewish studies is not possible without excellent professors and the Center is thankful for the support it received from Babette S. and Bernard J. Tanenbaum to establish a professorship in American Jewish Studies—a crucial field for our program. This semester we welcome the first Tanenbaum fellow, Gabrielle Berlinger.

Lastly, I'd like to say a special thank you to Hal Levinson, '78, for his extraordinary leadership and generous investment of time as chair of the advisory board. Hal always led with grace, confidence and patience. I would also like to give a warm welcome to Eric Sklut, '80, our incoming chair. We are looking forward to working with you and we are so grateful for your dedication to the Center.

Investing in Students

Continued from page 1

Private support makes it possible for the Center to fund student research. For more information on how you can become involved, contact Shontel Grumhaus at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at 919-962-6182 or shontel_grumhaus@unc.edu.

southern cities. In June, I spent several days in the YIVO Archives at the Center for Jewish History in New York City, where I found a large collection of documents related to my work, and in July I visited Atlanta to conduct more research, including an oral history interview. This generous funding has significantly accelerated my dissertation writing process."

Nazi Occupation of Norway / CAROLINE NILSEN, *Dept. of History*



NILSEN

"The Christopher Browning Holocaust Research and Travel Grant I received will greatly enhance my ability to conduct my dissertation research, which requires seven months of residence in Germany. I will spend my time in the Bundesarchiv in Berlin, the largest archive of Nazi records in Germany, and in Freiburg and Ludwigsburg, where the German military and post-war justice records are held. My work

focuses on the Nazi occupation of Norway and the Lebensborn program, and with generous support of the Center, I will be able to examine important documents."

Jewish Assimilation in America / TRAVIS ALEXANDER, *Dept. of English and Comp. Literature*



ALEXANDER

"This summer I will conduct archival research at both the Charles E. Young Research Library at UCLA and the Getty Research Institute, both in Los Angeles. My project will focus on the photographer Julius Shulman, whose works were crucial in documenting the rise of the "Mid-Century Modern" style of residential architecture. I use Shulman's work and legacy to query the relation between Jewish assimilation and middle class aesthetics in America—and especially in Los Angeles—following the Second World War. I am deeply grateful to the Center for facilitating this work."

“I created the ‘Hearing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict’ course because studying the region’s music allows students to learn about the various cultures involved in the conflict from a much different perspective than mainstream outlets....”

news BRIEFS



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY 2015 GRADUATES: Undergraduates **Collin Davis** (BA degree) and **Liliana Gregory** (minor in Jewish Studies) (shown above), and graduate students **Emma Woelk** and **Elissa Sampson** (both earned the Certificate in Jewish Studies).

JEWISH STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD:

At the April board meeting, representatives of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Center thanked **Hal Levinson, '78** for his many years of leadership serving as chair of the Center’s advisory board. On July 1st, **Eric Sklut, '80** became the chair of the board and **Adele Roth** joined the board.

CENTER NEWS: **Karen Auerbach,**

department of History, will serve as faculty liaison to the Center’s advisory board for this academic year. **David Lambert,** department of Religious Studies, will serve the Center as curriculum advisor for a second year. **Andrea Cooper,** department of Religious Studies, will serve as undergraduate student liaison.

The Center has more than 20 affiliated faculty members working in a broad spectrum of academic fields, even in some disciplines that may be unfamiliar to most of us, such as ethnomusicology, which is the study of music in human culture.

“For ethnomusicologists, people are our primary archive,” said Michael Figueroa, assistant professor in the department of Music. “The object of our studies is not always simply the music itself; often, music is the first point of inquiry for larger research questions. For my research, this has meant looking at music to research issues related to politics, national identity, and many other topics.”

Figueroa grew up surrounded by music and knew he wanted to base his life around it in some way or another. He entered college as a double major in guitar performance and music composition but instead ended up with a degree in musicology.

“I suppose I had an ‘aha’ moment in an ‘Intro to World Music’ class (a class that I now teach at UNC!) where I got a glimpse of how expansive the musical world was and what one could learn about the world through studying its music,” said Figueroa. “Later, I found Israel Studies through the backdoor of language. I entered graduate school with a general focus on Middle Eastern music. I enrolled in an intensive Hebrew course and became engrossed in Israeli culture, its music, and its literature.”

Figueroa joined Carolina in 2014 as a lecturer and was promoted to assistant professor in July. He holds a B.A. from Northwestern and a Ph.D. from University of Chicago. His research has been supported by grants and fellowships from Fulbright, the American Musicological Society, Targum Shlishi, and the Ford Foundation. He teaches a range of courses in the Department of Music, including: “Music and Globalization in the Middle East,” “Hearing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” “Introduction to Black Music,” “Music and Poetry,” “Introduction to World Musics,” and “World Musics in Theory and Practice.”

“I created the ‘Hearing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict’ course because studying the region’s music allows students to learn about the various cultures involved in the conflict from a much

different perspective than mainstream outlets, such as cable news, print, and social media,” noted Figueroa. “We looked at those news sources in the course, too, but in general I try to lead with culture and allow politics to follow. It is important to me that students grasp the human side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and learning Israelis’ and Palestinians’ musical cultures is a powerful way to accomplish this. The idea that I am helping shape the intellectual culture of UNC is



incredibly rewarding. The students here are very engaged and hardworking, so teaching is one of my very favorite parts of this job. In both undergraduate and graduate school, I had wonderful faculty mentors who helped guide me onto this path, and so I try to form similar relationships with my students now that I am a faculty member.”

Figueroa’s current book project investigates how Israelis and Palestinians use music and

poetry to shape their understandings of national territory, with a focus on the critical moment of the Six-Day War of 1967.

“I work with musicians and authors who write about the region’s contested territories—Jerusalem, chief among them. Of course, many of the songs and poems I analyze engage with familiar rhetoric rooted in religious or historic symbolism, but my focus is really on the everydayness of these weighty, often contradictory claims. What is it like to live in a conflicted space? How do people engage these issues through expressive culture? How are these sentiments performed in public spaces at particular times of year? The book will address these questions and more, while hopefully saying something to a general readership about the relationship between music and conflict. It is important to me that Jewish Studies and Middle Eastern Studies be engaged with the bigger questions asked in my discipline, and I hope my research will embody that ideal in significant ways.”

“Working in the classroom with undergraduates is very important to me. I especially enjoy working with first year students because of their eagerness to improve their writing when they show up on day one.”

news BRIEFS

FACULTY NEWS

Joining us this semester is a new faculty member in the department of American Studies — **Gabrielle A. Berlinger**, the Babette S. and Bernard J. Tanenbaum Fellow in Jewish History and Culture. Her research interests include Jewish folklore and ethnology.

Jonathan Hess, department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, has been named co-editor of *AJS Perspectives*, the magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies, which is published biannually.

David Lambert, department of Religious Studies, has book appearing in October with Oxford University Press—*How Repentance Became Biblical: Judaism, Christianity, and the Interpretation of Scripture*.

Marcie Cohen Ferris was recently promoted to full professor in American Studies. She is serving a two-year appointment as co-chair of the University's *Food for All: Local and Global Perspectives* steering committee.

Michael A. Figueroa, department of Music, was promoted to assistant professor this summer.

Sarah Workman's first semester at Carolina found her, begrudgingly, in a fantasy literature class with Professor Tyler Curtain. She enrolled in the course simply to meet a requirement for a 20th Century American Literature credit, but as it turns out, the class laid the foundation for her dissertation.

“Fantasy literature has a very particular relationship of defamiliarization—meaning the way that the writer describes certain objects or events so as to estrange perception so that the reader may experience them anew. Many of the writers I am looking at in my current project play with ideas of defamiliarization. Had it not been for this class and Dr. Curtain, I have no idea what my dissertation would look like.”

Workman's project examines how enchantment mediates history in contemporary Jewish American literature (written from the 1990s to the present).

She is exploring fantasy genres, magic, a return to the folkloric, whimsical nature of Yiddish storytelling, and how these elements frame the reader's relationship to the past. For example, Workman looks at how Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (2007) uses science fiction tropes to reimagine Jewish history from the space of Sitka, Alaska, a Jewish enclave for post-Holocaust refugees.

“I always knew I wanted to go to graduate school but it wasn't until after working at a think tank in Washington, D.C. with policy wonks that I realized how much I identified with being a reader, in a professional sense, and how much I missed reading and studying literature,” said Workman, a graduate student in the department of English and Comparative Literature. “I spent a year in Israel after I graduated with my B.A. from Cornell and I started reading a lot of Israeli literature. This is the point when I decided to apply to graduate school, and I went on to earn my master's at Georgetown before heading to Carolina for my Ph.D.”

Workman was recently selected to receive the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies Graduate

Fellowship for 2015-2016. This fellowship enables a student to focus full time on his or her scholarship, improving quality and shortening the time required to complete a Ph.D. degree.

“The grant allows me to not teach for two semesters and focus entirely on my project and make timely progress toward my degree. It also shows that my project is fundable outside of an English department, allowing me to position myself as someone who does Jewish American

Literature on the job market,” said Workman. “While teaching is incredibly rewarding, it is also time consuming, so having a fully-funded break from teaching allows me ample time to focus on my own research.”

That said, Workman will miss leading classroom discussions this year.

“Working in the classroom with undergraduates is very important to me,” added Workman. “I especially enjoy

working with first year students because of their eagerness to improve their writing when they show up on day one. Teaching has so many immediate benefits because the students are there, right in front of you, and I find it challenging and rewarding to create course content that will speak to these students while also defining what kind of an instructor I want to be.”



From 2013-2015, Sarah Workman was also the co-facilitator, with Professor Maria DeGuzman, of the Jewish-Hispano/a, -Latino/a, and -Latin American Literature and Cultural Production Working Group. The group is comprised of faculty and graduate students from departments across Carolina (including Religious Studies, Women's Studies, English & Comparative Literature, Romance Languages, and Communications), and meets several times each semester to discuss recent scholarship and materials related to Jewish Hispanidad.

The Center has awarded full-year, dissertation completion fellowships for the past four years, however, in order to support the ever-increasing number of graduate students working in the field of Jewish Studies, the Center needs new sources of private support to create future grant awards. To learn how you can help, please contact Shontel Grumhaus at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at 919-962-6182 or shontel_grumhaus@unc.edu.

community events



The Torah and the Mishnah as Responses to the Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies I
Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

SHAYE J.D. COHEN, Littauer Professor of Jewish Studies and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages at Harvard University, will discuss the twin destructions of the Jerusalem Temple (587 BCE and 70 CE) and how, in each case, the destruction was followed by the emergence of an authoritative book that would shape Judaism to this day. Neither the Torah nor the Mishnah is an explicit response to the Temple's destruction, but in each case the event prepared the way for the production and canonization of the book.



South and Further South: American Jewry and the Atlantic World

Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South
Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

AVIVA BEN-UR, an associate professor in the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst who specializes in Atlantic Jewish history and slavery studies, will explain how, during the Atlantic age, the Jewish epicenter was not in colonial North America or the U.S., but in the Caribbean and will explore the position of Jews within an Atlantic context, paying close attention to connections between the U.S. South and Caribbean.



How Tevye Learned to Fiddle

Co-hosted with Duke University's Center for Jewish Studies | **Duke** Center for Jewish Studies
Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

ANITA NORICH, the Tikva Frymer-Kensky Collegiate Professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan and author of several books on Yiddish literature and translation, will compare four film versions (in Yiddish, English, Hebrew, and Russian) of *Fiddler on the Roof* and the Sholem Aleichem novel on which the film is loosely based.



Excavations in the Ancient Synagogue of Huqoq in Israel's Galilee

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies II
February 15, 7:30 p.m. / Location TBA

JODI MAGNESS, a Kenan Distinguished Professor at UNC, has been directing excavations in the ancient village of Huqoq in Israel's Galilee since 2011. The excavations have brought to light the remains of a monumental Late Roman (fifth century) synagogue building paved with stunning and unique mosaics, including depictions of the biblical hero Samson. In this slide-illustrated lecture, Professor Magness will share these exciting finds, including the discoveries made in the summer 2015 season.



Family Papers: A Sephardi Journey through the 20th Century

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies
March 7, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

SARAH STEIN, professor of history and Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies at UCLA, will explore why a family saves its paper and how the instinct for preservation defies wars, fire, genocide, migration and family feuds. While this lecture tells the history of a single family, it is also a reflection on how one family archive came to be built and preserved, and how it knit together a family even as the historic Sephardi heartland of southeastern Europe was unraveling.



Prophecy Before the Birth of Israel

The Kaplan Brauer Lecture on the Contributions of Judaism to Civilization
Aug. 31, 5:30 p.m. / Hyde Hall, University Room

JACK M. SASSON, professor emeritus of Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible at Vanderbilt University, will discuss how, not long ago, it was believed that prophecy was uniquely manifested in ancient Israel, reaching perfection before and after the Babylonian exile. The decipherment of ancient documents from the ancient Near East hardly jolted that preconception until the recovery of the Mari archives from Middle Euphrates Mesopotamia. There, many letters testified to the engagement of kings with prophets and solicited their prognostications. We will review what we have learned and rely on examples to recreate the contexts in which prophecy thrived.



Thomas Mann's Race: Germans, Brazilians and Jews

Hosted by the Jewish Studies Graduate Student Network
Oct. 28, 12:00 p.m. / Location TBA

VERONIKA FEUCHTNER, associate professor of German and adjunct professor of psychiatry at Dartmouth College, will follow the traumatic history of immigration and acculturation of Julia Mann. The fact that Thomas Mann's mother came from Brazil rarely factors into readings of Mann's life and work, but this talk will examine the resulting anxieties about her racial background and their relationship to anxieties around Jewishness in the Mann family.

seminars & conferences

Reconsidering Antisemitism: Past and Present

RECONSIDERING
ANTISEMITISM
~ Past and Present ~

April 10-12, 2016

This three-day conference featuring academic panel discussions, two keynote lectures, and student research will delve into the history of antisemitism and explore the topic from a scholarly viewpoint. Please visit our web site in late 2015 for conference details and updates: jewishstudies.unc.edu. Pre-registration for portions of this conference will be required.

The Uhlman Family Seminar: Facing Antisemitism through the Ages

April 9, 2016

This continuing education seminar for the general public and K-12 educators will feature speakers from the antisemitism conference and will study antisemitic material from the medieval period to the contemporary world. Please check our Web site in late 2015 for seminar topics, speakers, and registration fees. This seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund. Pre-registration is required.

All lectures (with the exception of the Uhlman Family Seminar and the Reconsidering Antisemitism Conference) are free and open to the public and no tickets or reservations are required. Seating is not reserved. To receive updates about our event schedule, please subscribe to our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu. Updates are also posted on our Web site at jewishstudies.unc.edu.

The Center is dependent on private gifts to support its academic and community programs. To learn more about our programs, and how you can become involved, please visit: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

ANTISEMITISM CONFERENCE

This April, the Center is hosting a three-day international conference titled, "Reconsidering Antisemitism: Past and Present," a topic which is unfortunately timely in the U.S. and around the world. The conference will bring together a diverse group of scholars of antisemitism for in-depth discussions with students, educators, members of the media, and the community. The conference will offer two public keynote evening lectures and a series of five panel discussions.

For info: jewishstudies.unc.edu

RECONSIDERING
ANTISEMITISM
~ Past and Present ~

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the 2015–2016 schedule of events inside. Visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for more event information. To receive email updates about upcoming events, join our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu or signing up via our Web site.

EXPERIENCING HUQOQ

Continued from page 1

"Through the generous funding of the Center, I have been able to work as a square supervisor on the Huqoq Excavation Project this summer. I am excavating in the area of the ancient Jewish synagogue, which contained a beautiful mosaic floor that we are continuing to bring to light. Without funding through the Center, my participation on this dig would not be possible." —BRAD ERICKSON, graduate student, Dept. of Religious Studies

"I received an undergraduate travel and research grant this year from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies to help fund my trip to Huqoq. This excavation will give me irreplaceable experience and without the grant I received, I would not be able to cover the cost on my own. The Center's generosity gives me the opportunity to pursue this amazing experience." —STEPHANIE GRANT, '18, undergraduate student, archaeology major

"The Center has been an instrumental part of my dissertation research by helping to fund my travels to Israel where I am the ceramic specialist on the Huqoq

Excavation Project. Without the generous financial gifts provided by the Center, I simply could not conduct the research necessary to complete my dissertation project. —DANIEL SCHINDLER, graduate student, Dept. of Classics

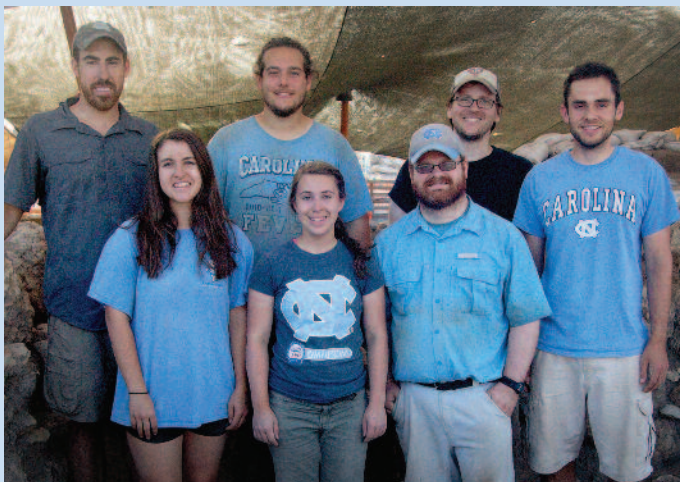
"Thanks to the generous grant from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, I have been able to document for the first time at Huqoq the different layers of occupation (ranging up to the mid-20th century) from the site fully within the walls of what was the Byzantine synagogue. I want to thank the Center and the donors, without whom none of our work would be possible." —DAVID CULCLASURE, '14, post-baccalaureate in Classics '15

Students supported with grants from the Center

Front Row (L–R):
Stephanie Grant
Sarah Hanvy
Brian Coussens

Back Row (L–R):
Brad Erickson
David Culclasure
Daniel Schindler
Bryan Bozung

Photo by J. Haberman



Private support makes it possible for the Center to support the Huqoq project and the students who participate. Additional summer learning opportunities in Argentina and Europe are being planned for Carolina's students, but in order to make these unique programs financially possible for all interested students, the Center needs to raise additional funding for undergraduate and graduate student research and travel grants. For more information on how you can become involved with the Center, contact Shontel Grumhaus at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at 919-962-6182 or shontel_grumhaus@unc.edu.