

Together, We've Created a Thriving Center

In spring 2003, Carolina leadership and faculty established the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies with an interdisciplinary approach to academics and research along with a strong focus on community outreach. Or, as we like to call it: *Jewish Studies the Carolina Way*. In the ensuing years, the Center has grown to have an important role on campus, in the Jewish studies academic field, and with the local community. **Today, at the 20-year milestone, the Center continues to strengthen and expand its programs for students, faculty and the general public, and none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of alumni and friends.**

The Center has grown from six faculty members to 23 (in 11 different academic departments), which in turn has allowed the Center to add more Jewish studies course offerings and academic programs for both undergrads and grad students. Our alums hold positions at non-profits, museums,

**Celebrating 20 Years
of Jewish Studies
the Carolina Way**



foundations, social service organizations and in secondary education. Many of our grad student alumni are faculty at peer institutions, and are helping to define the future of Jewish studies as an academic field.

The Center has hosted more than 200 events since 2003 and has co-sponsored many dozens more. These lectures, performances, film screenings and conferences are consistently attended by Carolina students and local community members, but the audience is now also worldwide for our remote events.

The Center has firmly established itself as one of the leading Jewish studies programs in the nation, and we could not have reached this level of success without the generous support of so many. Gifts at all levels enable the Center to maintain its reputation for excellence and to expand programs for students, faculty and the community. To learn more about *Jewish Studies the Carolina Way*, and how to be more involved with the Center, visit jewishstudies.unc.edu.

AN EXCITING YEAR FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year the Center is again hosting a series of lectures and special events, starting last semester with the Evans Lecture with alumna Naomi Graber, followed by a special evening of poetry with Ronny Someck (shown in photo), and our annual Margolis Lecture that focused on Southern Jews and the Lost Cause. More recently, we also have hosted several Emerging Scholars online talks given by the Center's graduate students, the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day lecture and the Sephardic studies lecture. Our events have been co-sponsored by numerous other academic units, showcasing our interdisciplinary focus. Many thanks to everyone that attended, and if you missed an event, lecture videos can be found on the Center's YouTube channel (UNC Jewish Studies). In addition, visit our website for bonus materials from Ronny Someck, who wrote poems while visiting Chapel Hill!





▲ Hayley Wright '13, was the first student to earn the religious studies/Jewish studies degree.



▲ Jada Enoch '23 was one of several students supported by the Center for the 2022 Huqoq dig season.



▲ Professor Joseph Lam teaching Classical Hebrew.



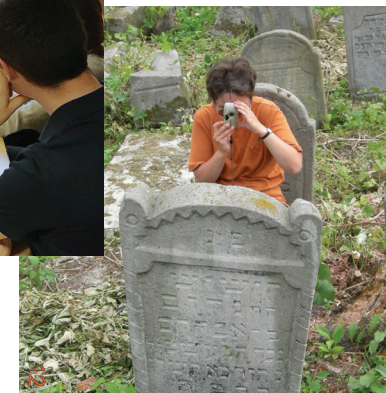
▲ Students in Professor Berlinger's "Jewish Material Culture" class view the Judaic art collection at the N.C. Museum of Art.



▲ The Defiant Requiem, a year-long collaboration with the department of music, culminated with a spectacular performance for the community.



▲ Faculty-led grant writing workshops are a popular program offered to the Center's graduate student network.



▲ Anna Kushkova conducted her anthropological research with support from the Center's dissertation completion fellowship.

20 highlights from 20 years

Undergraduate Education

At the very heart of our mission is educational programming. All incoming undergraduates at Carolina have a robust **(1) general education** program to complete, along with the requirements for their majors and minors. The Jewish studies course offerings meet these gen ed requirements and provide hundreds of students each semester with learning opportunities in a wide range of subfields. As part of the academic program, the College offers several **(2) unique courses**, including the gateway course, "Introduction to Jewish Studies," and an upper-level Capstone course that features a new topic led by a different faculty member each year. In addition, the one-credit Confronting Antisemitism course creates important discussions on both historical and current events. Students seeking a stronger background in Jewish studies can **(3) major** in religious studies/Jewish studies and minor in Jewish studies and modern Hebrew, and conduct **(4) undergraduate research projects**. Outside of the classroom, for more than a decade, Carolina's students have joined Prof. Jodi Magness on an exciting excavation at Huqoq that is attracting worldwide attention. This is one of several **(5) Study Abroad** opportunities that help students increase their knowledge of Jewish history and culture. Each year, the Center welcomes **(6) student interns and graduate student assistants** to the team. The students work on campus outreach, social media, event staffing and multimedia projects. **(7) Our undergraduate alumni** are creating meaningful careers and making an impact at Jewish non-profit, education, foundation and social service agencies. Many of our alums go on to grad school and rabbinic school.

Interdisciplinary Research and Campus-wide Impact

Creating the breadth of academic offerings is the responsibility of the Center's faculty members. Nearly 25 **(8) faculty members**, based in 11 academic departments, are affiliated with the Center and help advise students and develop programs. The Center's **(9) grant-making program** allows students and faculty to pursue research initiatives, present at conferences worldwide, and complete their publications. In 2016, the Center hosted its very first multi-day, interdisciplinary, international **(10) academic conference**: Reconsidering Antisemitism. The Center also has hosted conferences on Jewish material culture, German-Jewish studies and Jewish food. Our programs are often held in partnership with other centers and departments, resulting in a **(11) campus-wide impact**.

Community Outreach

The Center has hosted more than 200 **(12) public events**, including lectures, film screenings and musical performances since its founding. This includes five endowed lectureships, plus other annual events such as the Holocaust Remembrance Day event, held each January. The Center's **(13) collaborations** with Hillel, neighboring universities, local Jewish organizations, and other community agencies, such as the NC Museum of Art, have allowed the Center and its faculty to make important connections with the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill community and expand learning opportunities for Carolina's students.

Grad Student Programs

Carolina competes with other prestigious institutions for highly-qualified graduate students, and recruitment fellowships are an essential tool in this effort. The Center provides Top-Up awards and **(14) TEP Fellowships** to help bring these talented students to Carolina. Grad students affiliated with the Center all have home departments across the humanities and earn their degrees from these departments. Adding on a **(15) Certificate in Jewish Studies** gives Carolina's students the option to expand their coursework, demonstrate Jewish language skills and showcase their dissertation with a focus on a subfield of Jewish studies. Graduate students study in nearly a dozen different home departments at Carolina, but the Center's **(16) Grad Student Network** provides the means for them to meet and learn from each other. The Network hosts meetings, seminars and special training events for skill development. Providing funding to grad students in their final years at Carolina through **(17) Dissertation Completion Fellowships** is a top priority for the Center. Since 2012–13, the Center has provided one student a year of funding so the student can focus on researching and writing their dissertation. **(18) Grad Student alumni** of the Center with Ph.D.'s and Master's degrees focused on a subfield of Jewish Studies are now enjoying productive careers in academia and academic-adjacent careers. Many alumni are on the faculty of peer institutions, and helping guide the future of Jewish studies academics.

Visionary Supporters

The Center has benefited from outstanding **(19) leadership** with a bold vision right from the beginning, including founding chair of the advisory board, Eli N. Evans, and our former faculty directors Jonathan M. Hess and Ruth von Bernuth. Their combined leadership, vision and dedication to the creation and evolution of the Center help inspire and fuel the Center as it moves into its third decade of excellence. Alumni and friends make everything possible, from endowed faculty chairs and lectureships, to research grant funding for faculty and students, to all our special programming and services. This **(20) sustained support** will help ensure that the Center's work continues to benefit future generations of students at Carolina.



Jonathan M. Hess, faculty director 2003-13, with Advisory Board leaders Hal Levinson, Eli N. Evans, and Eric Sklut.



Last semester, **Gabrielle Berlinger**, the Babette S. and Bernard J. Tanenbaum Scholar in Jewish History and Culture and associate professor, department of American studies, shown at left, presented at the annual Southern Jewish Historical Society conference and met up with two alums of the Center and the department of American studies who also were speakers at the conference. **Josh Parshall**, shown at right, earned his Ph.D. at Carolina and serves as director of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life's history department. He is also the incoming president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. **Margaret Norman**, center, earned her M.A. at Carolina and is director of programming and engagement at Temple Beth El in Birmingham.



Students in RELI 63, a First Year Seminar on the Dead Sea Scrolls taught by the Center's **Jodi Magness**, Kenan distinguished professor, department of religious studies, celebrated Halloween in period-appropriate costumes (e.g., an Essene, a Pharisee, Jewish high priest, John the Baptist, Roman senator, senator's wife, etc.) that they researched and created. In December, Magness gave a three-part lecture series at the British Academy's flagship lecture program which showcases the very best scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.

David Lambert, associate professor, department of religious studies, is the Institute for the Arts and Humanities' Schwab Fellow this academic year. He recently presented his research at two events in the U.K.



At King's College London he gave a talk titled, "The Pentateuch as Torah Archive," and at Cambridge University, he gave a talk titled, "Putting Characters in their Place: Posthumanism, Translation, and Biblical Narrative."



L-R: Ronny Someck, with Patricia Rosenmeyer and Yaron Shemer, associate professor, department of Asian and Middle Eastern studies.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future

Patricia A. Rosenmeyer, Director

Seymour and Carol Levin Distinguished Term Professor
G.L. Paddison Professor of Classics, Department of Classics
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As I write this message, we are heading into the final weeks of the fall term, and students



and faculty are wrapping up their classes and preparing for final exams. Meanwhile, last week, the Campaign for Carolina surpassed its \$5 billion fund-raising goal ahead of schedule—an amazing feat!

All gifts made to the Center since the launch of the campaign count toward this achievement, and we are all so thankful for the generous contributions that are supporting our students, faculty and programming.

With the campaign milestone behind us, we can now look forward to another important milestone, the Center's 20th anniversary celebration, scheduled for March 2nd and featuring a jazz concert with Daniel Zamir. It's conveniently scheduled so it won't conflict with the Duke-Carolina game, so we hope you will all come and bring your families to this reception and performance on behalf of the Center.

But we are not just celebrating milestones this year; time marches on and we have exciting plans for our future, including expansion of our academic programming.

Thanks to generous endowments made to the Center, the College is currently running two faculty searches. We are working with the department of history to fill the Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat Professorship in Jewish History and Culture, and with the department of romance studies to fill the JMA and Sonja van der Horst Professorship in Jewish Studies. We look forward to welcoming two new faculty members to our Center in fall 2023, and subsequently, to offering more courses and programs to Carolina's undergraduates and graduate students.

As I conclude my first semester as Director, I am so grateful for our community of friends. Please know that when we celebrate the Center's 20th, we also will be celebrating all of you that believe in our Center, our faculty, and our students.



FACULTY PROFILE

Jillian Hinderliter

Interviewed by Ellen Perleberg, graduate student assistant

Tell me a little about your current book project.

My current book project is about American Jewish women active in the feminist health movement from the 1960s through the 1980s. I am interested in a broad understanding of the women's health movement and how Jewish social justice values intersected with feminist thought. It's also about the question of what compels activism. How does someone make that shift from a dissatisfied individual patient experiencing sexism in medical care to an activist?

What big lessons do you hope students take away from your classes?

I hope that my students take away that politics is many things, not only formal politics as people understand it through voting and lobbying. I emphasize with my students that conversations about health inequities are also political conversations, and that in the classroom, we're asking broader questions about authority and power and how people who are so often marginalized make inroads in these systems.



Hinderliter presenting her research project to the Center's Advisory Board members, fall 2022.

Every historian has that one story from their research that makes them say "That's why I do what I do." What's yours?

Someone's story that's really moved me is that of Rose Kushner. Rose was born in 1929 to immigrant parents. She was interested in medical careers, but that was ultimately inaccessible to her, so she became a journalist. It's not until she herself has breast cancer that she starts deeply investigating contemporary issues around breast cancer surgery and patients' rights. Through her patient experience, she has this very real shift from being a health journalist to being a health

activist. Here she was, this woman in the 1970s who was taking a bath and found a lump. And what did she do? She went to the library. She found one book in the public library about breast cancer. So she essentially wrote the books she couldn't find. The Jewish press did talk about her as a Jewish woman, as someone from a community where breast cancer was more prevalent. The BRCA gene discoveries weren't made yet, but many in the Ashkenazi community understood their higher risk. Rose discusses these trends and becomes a powerhouse. She speaks with researchers worldwide and pulls in rhetoric from health feminism and patients' rights. I am always taken aback by how powerful her voice was because she herself had to make these decisions. She was one of those activists who just seemed to be everywhere.

Jillian Hinderliter is an assistant professor in the Women and Gender Studies Department and the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Fellow in Jewish History. Hinderliter joined Carolina, and the Center, in July 2022.

GRAD STUDENT PROFILE

Jocelyn Burney, Uhlman Fellow

Jocelyn Burney, Ph.D. candidate in the department of religious studies, is the inaugural Uhlman Fellow in Jewish Studies Public Humanities. Burney's research centers on the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean world, and she is also a field archaeologist. She earned a BA in Religious Studies and Archaeology at Carolina and an MAR from Yale Divinity School. She is one of the Center's Tau Epsilon Phi Graduate Student Fellows in Jewish Studies, and plans to graduate this May.

The year-long Uhlman Fellows program provides training to graduate students working in the humanities, and includes a series of discussion sessions with the College's Adams Fellows, an annual symposium with a keynote speaker on a topic in the public humanities, and creation of a new public program by the student.



Burney's project is focused on a collection of Iron Age pottery from Tel Arad, a major Israelite cultic site in the northern Negev Desert in Israel. In the early 1960s, UNC Professor Bernard Boyd participated in these

excavations and brought back a collection of pottery, which he donated to the department of religious studies. This took place before the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was passed in 1972, so it was legal, but resulted in the objects being divorced from their context. Burney plans to create a new exhibit for the pottery tracing the objects' journey from Arad to Chapel Hill, and she also hopes to add some new information on Professor Boyd.

"The Uhlman Fellowship offers me the exciting opportunity to meet with other Ph.D. students across the humanities and discuss the importance of conducting research for the public good," said Burney.

The Uhlman Fellowship program is made possible by a generous gift to the Center, and is a collaboration with Carolina Public Humanities.

CAROLINA
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STUDIES



SPRING 2023

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

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Keep Connected: Visit jewishstudies.unc.edu to join our listserv and find social media links.

The Fund for Jewish Studies provides unrestricted support that is essential for the Center to maintain its reputation for excellence while expanding its academic and public outreach programs for future generations. Please consider making a gift using the enclosed envelope or the online giving form on our website: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

JOIN US THURSDAY, MARCH 2 at HILL HALL
for an Anniversary Celebration with
Israeli Jazz Musician Daniel Zamir



6 p.m. Celebration Reception / Hill Hall

7 p.m. Performance / Hill Hall

Free/open to the public

Free parking in Swain lot

Internationally renowned saxophonist and composer Daniel Zamir, together with pianist Gadi Lehavi, will be performing a special jazz concert of Daniel's music, offering a fusion of world music and jazz blended with Jewish Hasidic sounds.

Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Event in Jewish Studies

