

YU Today

VOLUME 8 NO. 12

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY • SUMMER 2004

Yeshiva Without Walls

■ *YU students take Jewish learning to distant communities*



Jeremy Bodek-Rosenbaum in an informal educational session with children in Denver.

Jewish life in the US is broad and diverse. And while options to live Jewish lives are greater than ever—from university programs to religious services to informal education—access, time, and guidance remain obstacles for many people, especially professionals who are busy building families and careers.

Recognizing the opportunity to fill a void, Yeshiva University has created a spiritual peace corps to bring intensive Jewish learning to smaller communities and major cities both here and abroad. Teams of students from Yeshiva College, Stern

College for Women, Sy Syms School of Business, and Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary have traveled to 26 cities in 16 states and 5 countries, delivering lectures on contemporary Jewish issues and providing one-on-one Torah instruction.

“The program’s *hashkafa*, or philosophy, seeks to support an individual’s efforts to strike a balanced interaction between tradition and modern society, the hallmark of Modern Orthodoxy,” said Rabbi Ari Rockoff, director of community initiatives at RIETS’ Max Stern Division of Communal Services,

and program coordinator.

That was certainly the case in Baltimore last month when Congregation Shomrei Emunah and Suburban Orthodox Congregation Toras Chaim hosted a series of YU Torah seminars. Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch, a fellow of RIETS’ Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon, lectured on Jewish law. YU students also provided instruction.

In Atlanta, Rabbi Yona Reiss ’87Y,R, Yale Law School graduate and director of the Beth Din of America, a prominent rabbinical court, is leading similar seminars, speaking on Beth Din procedures, business ethics, and the connection between Jewish and secular law. Joining Rabbi Reiss are eight YU students and Rabbi Michael Broyde YH, ’84Y,R, a graduate of NYU School of Law and professor of law and academic director of the Law and Religion Program at Emory University.

Professor Broyde, spiritual leader of Atlanta’s Young Israel of Toco Hills, also taught classes and hosted participants.

In addition to Baltimore and Atlanta, scholars from YU and RIETS have traveled to Omaha; Los Angeles; Teaneck, NJ; Las Vegas; Toronto; Vancouver; Glasgow; and Melbourne.



(l-r) Joshua Ross, Elysia Rothenberg, Anat Barber, Shira Rosenfeld, and Lisa Grundman, five of the eleven graduate fellows.

Leaders in the Making

■ *Graduate Fellows take their place at YU*

Eleven new fellows will assume positions in departments around campus, under a presidential initiative to train YU graduates for leadership roles in Jewish communal life.

The inaugural awardees of the Graduate Fellowship in University and Community Leadership at Yeshiva University are part of a broader effort to identify top graduates and keep them connected to YU.

“My intention is to inspire these young people not only to pursue their professional dreams, but to remain committed to the university and to the Jewish community by utilizing the very real, demanding skills they will gain,” said President Richard M. Joel. “They will play a meaningful role in enhancing the academic enterprise.”

The students were selected after an intense screening and review process by Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs; Sheldon Gelman, PhD, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean of Wurzelweil School for Social Work; and Ed Fox, ’75T,CTI, deputy

to the president.

The 2004–05 fellows are Jacob Agatstein, Anat Barber, Rachel Horn Cyrulnik, Debra Feinberg, Lisa Grundman, Ouriel Hassan, Shoshana Libin, Marisa Parker, Shira Rosenfeld, Joshua Ross, and Elysia Rothenberg.

They have been assigned to the following departments: RIETS’ Max Stern Division of Communal Services, Stern College for Women Dean’s Office, Sy Syms School of Business Dean’s Office, Office of Student Affairs (on the Wilf and Beren campuses), Office of University Life, Office of Enrollment Management, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Development.

“The fellows will be exposed to the inner workings of the university,” said Dean Gelman. “The program seeks to help these young men and women develop leadership skills and apply them to their chosen fields.”

The experience, said President Joel, should broaden Yeshiva University’s service to, and visibility in, the Jewish community.

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Yeshiva College Dinner Fetes Four Alumni

Some of Yeshiva College’s oldest, and youngest, alumni joined more than 300 friends and well-wishers at the Marriott New York at the Brooklyn Bridge in June to celebrate 75 years of quality Jewish higher education and pledge support toward future success.

Four alumni were honored for their achievements: Rabbi Dr. Jacob Adler YH, ’46Y,R; Rabbi Murray Grauer YH, ’41Y,R, who served as a pulpit rabbi in Miami and White Plains, NY, for 50 years; Dr. Jonathan Halpert YH, ’66Y,F, who has coached YU men’s basketball since 1972; and Rabbi Dr. (Col.) Victor M. Solomon YH, ’50Y,R, a retired and decorated US Air Force chaplain.

A nine-minute video presentation and a commemorative dinner journal celebrated the achievements of the honorees, as well as the first 75 years of YC.

Norman Adler, PhD, YC dean, spoke of “the historical challenge” that began with YC’s founding in 1928. He called the college the “cornerstone of centrist Orthodox Judaism.”

Richard M. Joel, president of Yeshiva University, described YU’s history as a springboard for achieving greater success, and called the four honorees role models for future YC students to “build lives of dignity, honor, and purpose.”

Arthur M. Luxenberg served as dinner chairman.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Norman Adler, PhD, YC dean, was honored on the 25th anniversary of the University of Pennsylvania's Biological Basis of Behavior (BBB) major, one of the largest undergraduate programs at Penn. Dean Adler was the founder of the BBB program, which has been adopted at Columbia, Harvard, and other schools.

Noyes Bartholomew, DMA, associate professor of music and coordinator of humanities, and **David Glaser**, DMA, visiting assistant professor of music, premiered original musical compositions at a performance of GlauX, a music ensemble of Temple University.

J. David Bleich, PhD, Herbert and Florence Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics, CSL, gave a talk, "The New York Get Law," at a conference on new trends in divorce law, sponsored by the faculty of law, University of Haifa. Dr. Bleich also authored "Was Spinoza a Jewish Philosopher?" for *Cardozo Law Review*, and "She'erit Yisra'el u'Moreshet Yisra'el" for *Or Ha-Mizrach*.

Hillel Davis, PhD, vice president of university life, and wife Rachayl were guests of honor at the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach 49th Annual Dinner, in March.

Joshua A. Fishman, PhD, Distinguished University Research Professor Emeritus, received the Linguapax Peace Prize, an award given every year by the Linguapax Institute to researchers and linguists who have made outstanding contributions to the field.

Sheldon R. Gelman, PhD, Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, WSSW, was quoted at length in the article "Collaborating With Faith-Based Services" in *NASW News*. He discussed the benefits and drawbacks of services provided by faith-based organizations.

Jeffrey Gurock, PhD, Libby M. Klapperman Professor of Jewish History, is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of Celebrate 350, the Jewish community's commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the Jews' arrival in the US. He delivered "Skirting and Ad (dressing) the Issue of Modesty: American Orthodoxy and the Culture of Sports,

1954-2004" at the American Jewish Historical Society's 2004 Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History, and "Orthodoxy in America on Display in the Arena of Sports, 1920-2000" at the conference Imagining the American Jewish Community, at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

A review of *Eschatological Themes in Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, by **Arthur Hyman**, PhD, BRGS dean, appeared in the Jan. 2004 issue of *Speculum*, published by the Medieval Academy of America.

Ephraim Kanarfogel, PhD, YH,'77Y, B,R, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History and chairman, Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, SCW, was named vice president of the Association for Jewish Studies, the leading professional organization for Jewish studies professors in North America. He gave a lecture at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, "Prayer, Literacy and Literary Memory in the Jewish Communities of Medieval Europe," and one titled "The Role of Dreams as a Determinant of Jewish Law During the Middle Ages" at Penn's Tenth Annual Guss Colloquium on History and Anthropology. In Jerusalem, he presented "Between the Tosafist Academies and other Study Halls in Medieval Ashkenaz" at a conference cosponsored by the Hebrew University and Merkaz Shazar, and was named an editor of the *Festschrift* published by Magnes Press in honor of Prof. Israel Ta-Shma.

Chancellor Norman Lamm, PhD, '49Y,B,R, was scholar-in-residence in March at the Chicago Loop Synagogue. He presented "Who is a Good Jew?", "The Study of Torah: Knowledge or Learning?" and "The Need of the Hour."

Daniel Pollack, MSW, JD, professor

Pearl Berger YH,'62T, BEd, dean of libraries, completed her two-year term as president of the Association of Jewish Libraries at its 2004 convention at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, June 20-23. Yeshiva University librarians **Leah Adler**, **Zalman Alpert**, **Shulamith Z. Berger** YH,'84B, and Dean Berger presented papers at the convention. **Peninnah Schram**, associate professor of speech and drama, led the workshop "Read Me a Story/Tell Me a Story: So What's the Difference?" **Jeffrey Gurock**, PhD, Libby M. Klapperman Professor of Jewish History, spoke about "Finding the Courage to Study American Jewish History: Professional and Personal Reflections" at an authors' luncheon.

at WSSW, co-authored "Classical Religious Perspectives of Adoption Law" in the *Notre Dame Law Review* (Vol. 79, Issue 2).

Alvin Schiff, PhD, '47Y,B,F, AGS, Irving I. Stone Distinguished Professor of Jewish Education, presented a series of five lectures titled "The Roots and Shoots of Zionism" at Congregation Torah Ohr, Boca Raton, FL. He also presented "Mordecai, the Paradigm of Jewish Communal Leadership."

Hayim Tawil, PhD, instructor in Hebrew, contributed an article to a *Festschrift* on studies in the Bible and the Ancient Near East, in Hebrew and Semitic languages. The volume honored Prof. Yitzhak Avishur, in the department of Hebrew Language at the University of Haifa.

Moshe D. Tendler, PhD, YC professor of biology and Rabbi Isaac and Bella Tendler Professor of Jewish Medical Ethics at RIETS, delivered "Defining Futility—An Ethical Perspective" as part of the Grand Rounds and Visiting Professor Series, Department of Medicine, Downstate Medical Center. Also, he was scholar-in-residence at Suburban Orthodox Congregation, Baltimore; he was honored at the inaugural dinner of MESHI, which treats Israeli children with crippling disabilities; and he gave a lecture, "When Caring Becomes Curing: A Torah Perspective," at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, NJ.

Josh Zimmerman, PhD, assistant professor of Jewish history and Eli and Diana Zborowski Professor of Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies, delivered a paper, "The 1905 Russian Revolution as a Turning Point in the History of the Jewish Labor Bund," at a Jerusalem conference, The Revolution of 1905: A Turning Point in Jewish History?, in May.

Moshe Pava, PhD, Alvin H. Einbender Professor of Business Ethics, SSSB; **Deborah Cohn**, PhD, assistant professor of marketing, SSSB; **David Schnall**, PhD, AGS dean; and **Mordechai Cohen**, PhD, associate professor of Bible, are among the lecturers in a series sponsored by Edah at the JCC of Manhattan.

Isabel K. Balson and **Cynthia Benolken** have been appointed CSL registrar and assistant registrar, respectively. Previously, Ms. Balson was assistant and then associate CSL registrar; Ms. Benolken was a registrar at Fashion Institute of Technology. Before that she worked in the registrar's office at the School of Visual Arts.

"Self-organized Criticality in Friction," an article co-written by **Fredy Zypman**, PhD, YC professor of physics, that was published in the *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter*, was chosen by the journal as one of its top papers for 2003.

Congratulations to

Cantor Bernard Beer YH,'65CTI, BSJM director, and wife Barbara on the birth of a granddaughter, Chana Aliza, to children Rabbi Jeffrey Beer YH,'97YC and wife Gila (Inslar) '02S.

Ed Fox '75Y,CTI, deputy to the president, and wife Debbie (Breidenbach) '78W, on the marriage of daughter

Tamar '02S to Philip Gross, son of Michael Gross YH'73 and wife Shaindy.

Arthur Hyman, BRGS dean, and wife Batyah on the birth of a grandson, Nethanel Isaac, to children Joseph Isaiah and Rena Hyman.

Howard Jonas, member, YC board of directors, and wife Debbie on the marriage of son Shmuel to Jocelyn Berger '02S.

Ephraim Kanarfogel PhD, YH,'77Y, B,R, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History and chairman, Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, SCW, and wife Devorah on the birth of their first grandchild, Yehuda, to daughter Tova '02S, a CSL student, and Yosef Milgrom '02Y.

Bradley Karasik '96Y, assistant dean of students, and wife Adina on the birth of third child Zundel Yaakov.

Leslie Waltzer Pollak, WSSW and FGS director of development, and husband Steve on the birth of a daughter, Jamie Lauren.

Burton Resnick, AECOM board of overseers chairperson emeritus and YU board of trustees Executive Committee chairman, and wife Judith on the birth of twin grandchildren, Alexander and Quinn, to children Peter and Andrea Resnick.

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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Key to School Abbreviations

A, AECOM Albert Einstein College of Medicine • AG, AGI Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration • BG, BGSS Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Sciences • B, BRGS Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies • BSJM Belz School of Jewish Music • CTI Cantorial Training Institute • C, CSL Cardozo School of Law • F, FGS Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology • I, IBC Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies • J, JSS James Striar School of General Jewish Studies • MSDCS Max Stern Division of Communal Services • Y, MYP Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies • SBMP Stone Beit Midrash Program • R, RIETS Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary • S, SCW Stern College for Women • SG Sue Golding Graduate Division of Medical Sciences • SB, SSSB Sy Syms School of Business • T, TI Teachers Institute • T, TIW Teachers Institute for Women • W, WSSW Wurzweiler School of Social Work • Y, YC Yeshiva College • YH, YUHS Yeshiva University High Schools (MSTA The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy) (SWHSG Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls)

Commencement Highlights

■ *Speakers urge YU graduates to take hold of their future*



YU valedictorians: (l-r) Robert Weissbrot (IBC), Louis Nemzer (SBMP), Jennifer Gamss (SCW-General Studies), Tara Rabinowitz (SSSB), Justin Klein (SSSB), and Amir Sadighpour (JSS).
Not pictured: Yaacov Rydzinski (MYP), Ariel Bayewitz (YC), and Jeremy Bodek-Rosenbaum (SSSB).

In 2004 commencement addresses, President Richard M. Joel, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and James E. Cimino, former chief of medicine for Calvary Hospital, encouraged graduates to pursue professions that both change and enrich society.

The 73rd Annual Commencement Exercises at The Theater in Madison Square Garden were President Joel's first since taking office last fall. He used the occasion to discuss new challenges confronting modern society and old dilemmas—conflict, fear, and dis-

trust—that require renewed resolve.

"Humankind has within its grasp the power to eliminate much of human suffering," the president told a crowd of 5,000 that included students and their families, alumni, administration, and guests.

He bestowed honorary degrees on Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center; Dr. Ruth Roskies Wisse, Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University; and Yeshiva College alumnus Dr. Maurice Wohlgernter, professor

emeritus of English at Baruch College, City University of New York, and former YC professor of English.

President Joel also conferred some 2,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees.

At Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law's 26th Annual Commencement Exercises at Avery Fisher Hall, Justice O'Connor urged graduates to pursue careers in public service, citing her own groundbreaking career as a female lawyer, lawmaker, and jurist.

"Don't succumb to the thought that society's problems are too large for any one individual," she said, recalling that her former colleague, Justice Thurgood Marshall, worked for years with other committed lawyers to lay the groundwork for the historic 1954 decision outlawing school segregation.

At Albert Einstein College of Medicine's 46th Annual Commencement Exercises, also at Avery Fisher Hall, Dr. Cimino described medicine as "a serving profession" and emphasized the need to provide compassionate, quality care to terminally ill patients. His address offered insights into palliative care, which focuses on relieving the symptoms of incurable diseases.

Dr. Cimino's son, Christopher Cimino, MD, an associate clinical professor at AECOM, introduced his father, who was also joined by Dominick P. Purpura, MD, the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean at Einstein. President Joel conferred degrees to 151 MD graduates, 18 PhD candidates, and 16 combined MD-PhD graduates.

See photo gallery on page 4 for highlights of commencement exercises, including those held at Wurzweiler School of Social Work and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.

EINSTEIN ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- Researchers at Albert Einstein College of Medicine have solved the mystery surrounding the migration of messenger RNA molecules out of cell nuclei that allows genetic instructions to be translated into proteins. The discovery was made possible by cutting-edge microscope technologies developed in the Einstein lab of **Robert H. Singer**, PhD, that enable scientists to view individual molecules and track their movement within cells.

- Students, fellows, and faculty at Einstein's Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) received honors, including scholarship awards from the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union and United Food and Commercial Workers Union. **Laurie-Anne Swaby** received First Prize (\$2,500), **John Paul Sanchez** received Second Prize (\$1,500), and **Yukmila Soriano** received Third Prize (\$1,000). **Lourdes Maisonet**, MD, and **Lionel Rodriguez**, MD, received fellowship awards.

- **Steven Almo**, PhD, of the department of biochemistry, delivered the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology-Amgen Award lecture at the group's annual meeting in Boston. He spoke on the structural basis of T-cell costimulation.

- **Michael Brownlee**, MD, professor of medicine and pathology and Anita and Jack Saltz Professor of Diabetes Research, received the 2004 Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement from the American Diabetes Association. The award is given annually to recognize scientific excellence as well as the recipient's significant, long-term contribution to the understanding, treatment, and/or prevention of diabetes. The medal is the highest scientific award given by the ADA.

President's Circle Awards Grants

■ *More than \$90,000 for student initiatives*

The President's Circle is revitalizing efforts to enhance student life with a slew of new grants totaling more than \$90,000 for campus projects. Fueled by new leadership, the President's Circle reconnects accomplished alumni from YU's undergraduate schools to current campus life to improve student programs and facilities.

Steven Selesny '84Y and Daniel Gibber '96S are the group's new co-chairmen. "We want to give back to YU via its most valuable asset—the students," said Mr. Gibber. They hope to attract more members and improve communication with students, according to Mr. Selesny.



President's Circle co-chairs
Steven Selesny and Daniel Gibber

"It's a somewhat difficult process to coordinate with students, because we want written and well-thought-out proposals that often reflect a group's long-term goals from student leaders whose terms in office are inherently short," Mr. Selesny said.

Students presented proposals to the group's members at a meeting last December. Student groups receiving funding include: WYUR, Yeshiva's radio station, to purchase a radio console; the Uptown Independent Housing Program, to refurbish the

student lounge; the Torah Leadership Training Program for Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women students; *Lapid*, the Stern College magazine celebrating its Jubilee; the Dean of Students Chesed Fund; and MacsLive, the YC varsity basketball team's Web site.

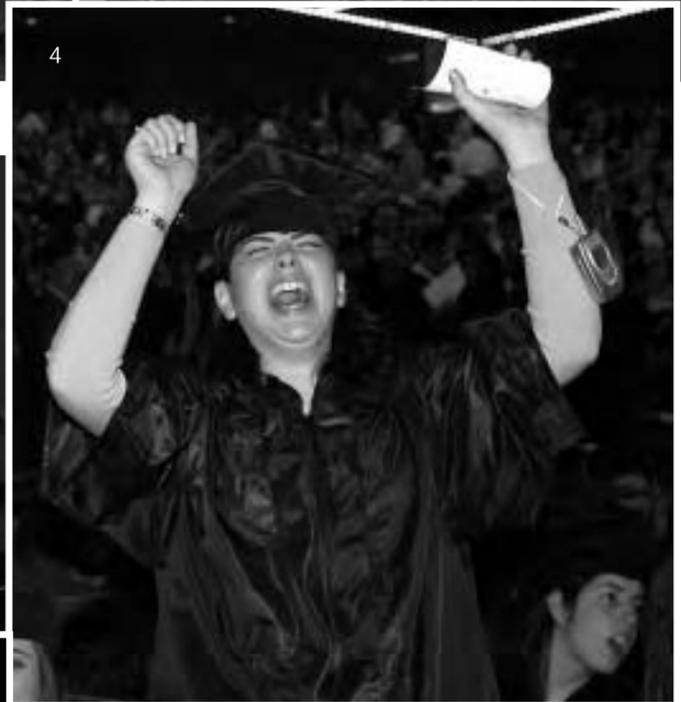
The President's Circle allocates funds to YU student organizations only, and encourages independent fund-raising as well, Mr. Selesny said. It does not fund operating expenses or charity-type organizations not focused on YU students.

"The President's Circle is not simply a group of alumni determining what should be funded," said Lance Hirt '87Y, member of the Circle and the YU board of trustees. "Rather, it is a group of alumni listening to what the students need."

Alumni who donate \$5,000 per year can fund projects through the Circle.

"The President's Circle brings student life and alumni relations together," Mr. Hirt said. He and fellow YU board trustee and Circle member Sender Cohen were instrumental in revitalizing the group based on their interest in enhancing student life. "Alumni are able to become directly involved in what is happening on campus, and it's a great way to make an immediate difference at the university," said Mr. Hirt.

COMMENCEMENT 2004



1 (l-r) Raphael Nadav Tolub, Andre Ghighi, and Mikael Landau, graduates of Sy Syms School of Business
 2 Esther Stavrou, assistant professor of psychology, hoods PsyD graduate Brian Butler at Ferkauf's commencement
 3 President Richard M. Joel and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who delivered the commencement address at Cardozo's ceremony
 4 Stern College graduate Anat Barber

5 Ariel R. Bayewitz, YC valedictorian and student speaker at YU's commencement
 6 Wurzweiler School of Social Work held its exercises at Belfer Hall, Wilf Campus
 7 Albert Einstein College of Medicine granted some 230 degrees and 46 diplomas
 8 (l-r) Alisa Mandel, Atara Philips, Dina Lyman, and Zehava Machnikoff, of Stern College for Women

COMMENCEMENT 2004

Outstanding Undergraduates Garner Top Honors

Anthony Wexler



Receives
Johns
Hopkins
Grant

I had no idea I could make a living reading books I love," said YC graduate Anthony Wexler, who received a full scholarship to the graduate English program at Johns Hopkins University.

A Montreal native, Mr. Wexler majored in English with a minor in psychology. In his honors thesis, he uses psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan's unique approach to evaluate the works of South African writer J. M. Coetzee.

The English graduate program at

Johns Hopkins is highly selective and awards an annual stipend to the six to eight students chosen on average per year.

Mr. Wexler credits his interest in contemporary American literature to his YU experience. "I love YU," Mr. Wexler said. "After spending two years learning in Israel, I came here looking to combine textual learning with secular studies, and the time I spent here changed how I thought and saw the world."

Elizabeth Stewart, PhD, his adviser in the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College, witnessed his intellectual blossoming. "Anthony did what not many people do in a lifetime: he gained a strong grasp of Lacanian psychoanalysis, strong enough to interpret the work of Coetzee in an original manner," she said.

Mr. Wexler aspires to be a professor of literature. "I would like to teach the love of knowledge, the world of ideas, and the interplay of imagination and reality," he said.

Malka Zeiger Simkovich



Studies
Biblical
Poetry at
Harvard

Esoteric to some, studying Biblical poetry was a natural choice for Malka Zeiger Simkovich, a 2004 graduate of Stern College for Women and its S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program. This fall, she will pursue a master's degree and PhD in that field through Harvard University's program in Near Eastern languages and civilizations.

Ms. Simkovich double-majored in Jewish studies, concentrating in Bible and music. "A PhD in Biblical poetry

fuses two areas of study, *Tanakh* (Bible) and music, both of which I love equally," she said. Next year she will also teach Tanakh at Maimonides School in Brookline, Mass., and mentor female students. She says she plans a career in formal and informal education and hopes to establish programs for women.

Michelle Levine, PhD, assistant professor of Bible, mentored Ms. Simkovich for her honors thesis, "Critical Analysis of International Prophecies in the Book of Isaiah."

"Malka's knowledge of music gives her an interdisciplinary sense to rhythm and meter of Biblical poetry," Dr. Levine said.

"She is enthusiastic about her studies and demonstrates the ability to interrelate different disciplines of research. Malka will make a fine teacher and scholar."

At Stern, Ms. Simkovich wrote for *The Observer*, tutored in the writing center, and sang in the choral ensemble.

Chanoch Goldfeder



Wins
Computer
Science
Fellowship
from US
Defense
Dept.

A fellowship from the US Department of Defense is helping YC graduate Chanoch Goldfeder on his way to Columbia University next fall, where he will work toward a master's degree and a doctorate in computer science.

Mr. Goldfeder received the National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship, which covers tuition and fees and offers a stipend.

"I am really excited," Mr. Goldfeder said. "It was the first acceptance I received and it was the fellowship I

really wanted."

Mr. Goldfeder, who majored in math and computer science, will conduct research in the robotics lab of Dr. Peter Allen, professor of computer science at Columbia University.

"I would like to be a professor and conduct research, and I'd also like to be involved in Jewish communal services," he said.

At YC, Mr. Goldfeder was a member of the Computer Science Society and the Dramatics Society. He was also active in the Max Stern Division of Communal Services of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

"Chanoch showed a high degree of creativity in his approach to problem solving," said Gabriel Cwilich, PhD, associate professor of physics at YC. "I used to post online puzzles that related to creative applications of the material covered in class. Chanoch was so eager, he established a warning system in his pager that would alert him when I typed anything in that Web page."

Bella Tendler



Begins
Near
Eastern
Studies at
Princeton

Eager to begin her Near Eastern studies doctorate this fall at Princeton University, Bella Tendler hopes to create a mutual understanding between Jews and Muslims that eschews harmful stereotypes.

"Whether protecting oneself in times of war or conducting dialogue during peace, it is crucial to work with accurate knowledge rather than cultural generalizations," said the 2004 graduate of Stern College for Women.

Ms. Tendler plans a career in aca-

demia, where she hopes to broaden the Jewish community's knowledge of Islam through teaching and writing.

Ms. Tendler double-majored in history and creative writing. "Bella was a remarkable student who stood out for the quality of her mind and her inexhaustible intellectual curiosity," said Ellen Schrecker, PhD, professor of history. "It was clear from the first minute she appeared in my class that she was destined for a distinguished academic career. Having her in my classes was like having a colleague there."

At SCW, Ms. Tendler was president of the Dramatics Society, organized the poetry and prose performances of the university's arts festival, and was cofounder and editor of the school's literary journal.

She is the granddaughter of Rabbi Moshe D. Tendler, professor of biology, Rabbi Isaac and Bella Tendler Chair in Jewish Medical Ethics, and rosh yeshiva at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Syms Graduates Land Places at Leading Firms

When Robert Weissbrot starts work as an auditor at Ernst & Young in mid-August, he will join the group of 2004 Sy Syms School of Business graduates working at top accounting, financial, and marketing firms. The accounting and finance double-major landed the job after interviews with the "big four" accounting companies on campus.

"The accounting majors at Syms are highly recruited, which is a credit to YU," said Mr. Weissbrot. But leading up to the interviews is a long process of preparation arranged by the school's Office of Career Services (OCS).

"The OCS helped me build my resume and prepared me for interviews," he said.

The business school placed graduates at all four of the major accounting firms, as well as a

number of other large companies such as American Express and Grant Thornton, said Charles Snow, PhD, SSSB dean. "We also have 2004 graduates at the major investment banks—Goldman Sachs, J. P. Morgan Chase, Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, and Lehman Brothers," Dean Snow said.

When SSSB valedictorian Jeremy Bodek-Rosenbaum found his job as an analyst at Gold-

man Sachs, the office helped him with his application, he said.

The school's courses also emphasize professional preparation. Marketing majors Chanita Friedman and Alan Silverberg were hired as assistant media planners at mOne, a worldwide digital and direct media buyer owned by WPP Group, a major global marketing firm.

"Direct Marketing," a course

taught by Michael Rothschild, MBA, adjunct assistant professor in marketing, required students to plan a direct marketing campaign, said Ms. Friedman.

The advertising and interactive advertising courses that Mr. Silverberg took with Deborah Cohn, PhD, assistant professor of marketing, have become the focus of his work. "Professor Cohn took us to industry conferences and brought in speakers, which made her classes about more than just academics," he said.

YU Builds Bridges with LA Community

■ \$650,000 raised for undergraduate scholarships and programs

Yeshiva University is adopting a more activist, grassroots approach to Jewish learning and community building in major cities and towns. The goal is to forge closer ties with YU constituencies, as well as the Jewish community at large, and is driven by President Richard M. Joel's concept of a "yeshiva without walls." The initiative entails distance-learning, summer Torah seminars nationwide and abroad, extension programs of the *kollelim* (advanced Jewish learning programs), and other community-building programs to bring YU's resources and capabilities to many more Jews.

In early May, President Joel took his vision of community to Los Angeles for meetings and one-on-one sessions with parents and grandparents of YU students and alumni, including Melanie and Robert Rechnitz, whose son attends Yeshiva College, and Marilyn and Jaime Sohacheski, whose two daughters attended Stern College for Women.

A more grassroots approach to Jewish learning

The two couples hosted a May 12 dinner at LA's Four Seasons Hotel, at which guests raised \$650,000 for YU undergraduate scholarship aid. Among those who pledged \$25,000 or more were Susie and Dr. Ernie Agastein, Beverly and Sanford Deutsch, Maureen and Lawrence Eisenberg, Esthie and Walter Feinblum, Prina and Jacob Graff, Trudy and Louis Kestenbaum, Gitta and Jack Nagel, Gittel and David Rubin, Yvonne and Abe Winter, Eileen and Daniel Wohlgelemler, Rosalie and Dr. Edward Zalis, and Mira and David Zeffren.

While in LA, the president also addressed Jewish high school students to gauge their interests and to extend the scope of YU's inclusive initiatives.

The California trip was one of several visits President Joel undertook this past year to build bridges between YU and local communities. Since assuming office, the president has addressed YU friends and supporters in Montreal, Toronto, Palm Beach, Pittsburgh, Providence, Texas, and NYC, as well as in Israel.

RIETS Dinner Honors Roshei Kollel



At its annual dinner at Manhattan's Grand Hyatt, YU's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary honored four of its distinguished roshei kollel, (l-r) Rabbi J. David Bleich, Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, and Rabbi Mordechai I. Willig. They were recognized for their role in producing top-flight pulpit and communal rabbis, teachers, principals, and roshei yeshiva.

Board News

- Dr. Henry Kressel, managing director of Warburg Pincus and Co., was elected to the SSSB board of directors.
- Shira Yosher '93S, a partner in the Houston, TX, firm of Baker Botts LLP, joined the SCW board of directors.
- Madaleine Berley and Robin Meltzer, both psychotherapists, have been named members of the WSSW board of governors.
- Psychotherapist Penny Randall, MSW, developmental psychologist Therese Rosenblatt, PhD, '94F, and child psychologist Lisa Hershberg Striar, PhD, '97F, joined the FGS board of governors.

People in the News

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We Mourn

Joseph Bukiet, who was a YU Guardian with his wife, Rose, and his brother and sister-in-law, Al S. and Belle Bukiet. They dedicated the Bukiet Family Holocaust Collection of Yeshiva College.

Labe C. Scheinberg, MD, former professor of neurology, neurology department co-chair, and AECOM dean, 1970-72, in Feb. In the 1970s he helped found Einstein's multiple sclerosis center, which became a prototype for similar centers across the nation.

Philip Zaro, member, WSSW board of governors. He and his wife, Dorothy, were fellows of WSSW and RIETS and endowed a scholarship at WSSW.

David H. Zysman, vice president emeritus of development, YU Benefactor, and honorary alumnus of YU. He headed the development department for almost 12 years, and played a major role in the founding of SSSB. The historic David H. Zysman Hall on the Wilf Campus was named in his honor.

Condolences to

Carl Bennett, YU Benefactor, on the loss of his sister, Sarah Bennett Potash.

Herbert C. Dobrinsky, EdD, YH, '54Y,R,F, vice president for university affairs, on the loss of his mother, Lily. Condolences to his family.

John Krug, PhD, AGS adjunct assistant professor, on the loss of his mother, Marion.

Eli, Jacob, and Jonathan Sasson, YC/MYP and RIETS students, on the loss of their father, Dr. Azra Sasson.

Toby Schneier, member, SCW board of directors, on the passing of her father, Natan Gottesman, a Holocaust survivor.

Michael Shmidman, PhD, undergraduate Jewish studies dean, on the loss of his brother, Rabbi Morris Shmidman.

Rabbi Mordechai Willig '68Y,R, RIETS rosh kollel and Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halakhah, on the loss of his father, Rabbi Jerome Willig '38Y,R.

Polish-Jewish Relations Revisited

■ Joshua Zimmerman wins Oxford and Fulbright funding for study



Dr. Joshua D. Zimmerman

Joshua D. Zimmerman, PhD, is no stranger to stirring the pot, especially when his research challenges time-honored perceptions of Holocaust atrocities.

Two years ago, the YU history professor, who holds the Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies, organized a conference at Yeshiva University at which international scholars presented research that indicated Jews living in fascist Italy before and during World War II endured far greater suffering than originally thought.

This fall, he will travel to Poland and England for 10 months of research focusing on the response of Polish resistance fighters to Nazi wartime abuses, including the persecution of Polish Jews, three million of whom perished in

Hitler's death camps.

Funding for Dr. Zimmerman's work comes from two scholarships: a Fulbright scholar award, for his research in Poland, and a grant from the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, for his study in Great Britain.

Dr. Zimmerman's passion for Holocaust study in general and Polish Jewry in particular began, he said, in his teens. His grandparents fled the "Pale of Settlement" (Imperial Russia that includes present-day Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, and Ukraine) long before Nazi barbarism enveloped Europe, and they, to his surprise—and disappointment—could share

little knowledge of their homeland. His search for roots would take him to Poland eight times between 1987 and 2001, and included a trip for his doctoral research at Brandeis University in 1995, the result of which was the book, *Poles, Jews, and the Politics of Nationality*.

As a researcher and historian, Dr. Zimmerman said he is cognizant of the difficulties of opening up old wounds. Indeed, he said, part of his task is to explore the ways people have consciously and unconsciously shaped their memories.

His chief focus is the Polish Home Army—the main underground resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Poland—and its role in Polish-Jewish relations. Modern Polish history reveres the Home Army, Dr. Zimmerman said, as the "great liberator and fighter for the

cause of freedom and democracy, and as a staunch ally of Western democracies."

However, he said, new evidence based on survivor accounts and unearthed documents shows a Home Army hostile to Jewish freedom fighters and indifferent to their slaughter in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

For his research in Poland, Dr. Zimmerman plans to mine Polish archives and library holdings, articles from the Polish and Jewish underground press, and thousands of unpublished memoirs at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

In Oxford and London, he hopes to review archives of the Polish Institute, official Home Army files, and extensive holdings of the underground Polish and Jewish press at Oxford University's Bodleian Library.

Honors Students Travel Abroad and at Home

■ Learning about James Joyce in Dublin, sea creatures in Maine

On June 16, 1904, Dublin's most famous fictional Jew wandered the city streets for some 30 hours before returning home. A century later, hundreds of thousands have retraced Leopold Bloom's steps

in tribute to his creator, author James Joyce, who immortalized Bloom in his seminal work, *Ulysses*.

During this centenary year of Bloom's odyssey, Ireland's capital city is feting its most important writer and the father

of literary modernism. This was the impetus behind "Understanding the City," a summer course in the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College. It brought YC students to London and Dublin to study how great artists weave urban locales into their work.

"Students in the course spent the first three weeks studying literature and creative writing. Then they explored London and Dublin for two weeks through literature, art, music, film, politics, geography, and history," said Dr. Gillian Steinberg, lecturer and summer course coordinator. The trip, June 22 - July 5, included visits to museums, theaters, and universities.

"Joyce felt that Jews have a special gift for

finding transcendent truth in the world and for sharing that truth," said Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt, the trip chaperone who is a Joycean scholar and senior rabbi at Riverdale Jewish Center.

Students in the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women also ventured off-campus to study their classroom subjects up close. Students in the marine biology course, May 31-June 13, spent the first week learning about the field on the Israel Henry Beren Campus and the second doing

research at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center.

They collected specimens from various locales, such as mudflats and rocky coastline, and returned to the lab to examine their findings. "We learned so much in the week we spent there because the work was so hands-on," said Meredith Weiss, a biochemistry major who begins work on an MD degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the fall.

A dredge of the Damariscotta River, which feeds into the sea, yielded sponges, sea



Stern students search for organisms while sifting through samples from mudflats.

stars, mussels, and shrimp, while the mudflat digs produced worms and clams.

The trip also introduced Ms. Weiss to the marine center's research into the medicinal benefits of aquatic sponges and corals, an area the Florida native hopes to study later in her career.

Finally, students in the archaeology and ecology field course—open to both SCW and YC students—traveled to Israel July 6 - August 6 to work at Tell es-Safi/Gath, an archaeological site in the Biblical city of Gath.



YC honors students with Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt (bottom right) in London.

Graduate Fellows Take Their Place at YU

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Rachel Horn Cyrulnik, former co-editor of *The Observer*, will work in the Office of University Life. "I think this fellowship will be a good learning experience, but more than that, it will empower me—at a very young age—to make a difference," she said.

Under the program, the fellows will be mentored by a university administrator. They will tour YU's four campuses and meet with executives at major Jewish service agencies. They will also attend biweekly leadership seminars, developed by Dean Gelman, and earn up to three graduate credits per semester.

The fellows will meet with donors to learn about their philanthropic interests and values.

Each fellow will receive \$18,000 plus benefits, including a year of housing and health insurance.

The fellowship program underscores a concerted effort to address YU's chief constituencies and use participants' insight and knowledge to

enrich university and academic life.

Joshua Ross, who will work at Sy Syms School of Business Dean's Office, said he hoped "this will be a give-and-take learning experience."

"Senior administrators will be actively engaged in grooming these fellows and, in turn, will be receptive to their ideas," said the president. "We expect that their contribution will benefit the university in both the short and long term."

The program was made possible through the generosity of Ronald P. Stanton, YU board chairman; Robert M. Beren, YU board chairman emeritus; the Jesselson family; SSSB board members Sy Syms and Warren Eisenberg; Marjorie Diener Blenden, Stern board chair; and Sender Cohen, YU trustee.

"After three years, following an evaluation, we hope the program will become a permanent feature of YU," said Daniel T. Forman, vice president for development.



Expert on Family Trauma Joins YU

David Pelcovitz, PhD, has been appointed professor of education and psychology at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, and special assistant to the president.

Dr. Pelcovitz, a clinical professor of psychology in psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine and director of psychology at North Shore University Hospital-NYU School of Medicine, is a leading expert in family trauma, child abuse, and at-risk youth, particularly in the Jewish community. For more than 20 years he has advised community agencies, schools, and families nationwide after such tragedies as school violence or large-

scale sexual abuse cases.

As special assistant to President Richard M. Joel, Dr. Pelcovitz will assist him in bringing the knowledge, experience, and programs of YU to communities near and far. "David Pelcovitz is the newest addition to an exciting and evolving team that is building a premier educational school and institution with sensitivity to emerging issues central to Jewish education," said President Joel.

Dr. Pelcovitz will also teach courses on counseling and family education in the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikhah Honors Program at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Cardozo Graduate Kathryn O. Greenberg Elected CSL Board Chair

Kathryn O. Greenberg, who succeeded Earle I. Mack as Cardozo School of Law's new board chairman, is the first alumna to ascend to the position. Ms. Greenberg graduated from the school *cum laude* in 1982.

Dean David Rudenstine, Ms. Greenberg's former professor, said, "Kathy's election is a wonderful sign of Cardozo's coming of age. She graduated with the school's fourth class. She brings to this position extraordinary insight, a passion for the school, and personal experience that enriches our ambitions."

Following graduation Ms. Greenberg joined the firm of Shea and Gould and served as a supervising attorney at Cardozo's Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic. She also attended the Master of Laws program in taxation at New York University. In 1990, she founded the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) to provide free civil legal

services for low-income New Yorkers. Today, NYLAG is a full-service, not-for-profit law firm.

In addition to being honorary board chairman of NYLAG, she is a life trustee of the Hospital for Special Surgery and sits on the advisory board of the women's committee of the Central Park Conservancy.

Kathryn O. Greenberg, Cardozo board chair





Wanted: Exceptional Undergraduate Opportunity

■ *Years of Gottesman family support provide foundation for further funding*

Whether exploring the curative qualities of green tea, deciphering Biblical Hebrew, or creating computer solutions for understanding life on a cellular level, Yeshiva University students are spending their summer vacation conducting cutting-edge research.

Twenty-one students are interning with 16 professors in biology, chemistry, physics, English, computer science, economics, and Hebrew. Their assistance often helps faculty publish books and articles, and present at conferences. The students, meanwhile, enjoy academic opportunities normally unheard of for undergraduates.

Elie Wolfe, a junior majoring in physics at YC, is working with newly appointed physics professor Sergey Buldyrev, PhD, at Boston University. (Dr. Buldyrev will join YC's faculty in the fall.) They are attempting to perfect a computer program to simulate protein folding. Folding is the process by which proteins—biochemical molecules that make up cells, organs, and organisms—put themselves together.

"I'm the only undergrad working on this project, which is a big privilege," said Mr. Wolfe.

Over the past few years, grants for



Juniors Ronit (left) and Tamar Gold (right), from Long Beach, CA, are doing green tea research at Stern College.

this summer research have come predominantly from Ruth and David S. Gottesman. Both YU benefactors have been instrumental in enriching the university's academic atmosphere through the Gottesman Program for Undergraduate Academic Excellence. Alongside other initiatives, the Gottesmans have supported summer faculty research fellowships and student internships since the summer of 2000.

This year, the Gottesmans' steady support was complemented by a dona-

tion for student internships from the Milton and Miriam Handler Foundation, which provided stipends for 15 students.

"Undergraduate research is the best learning experience that students can encounter," said Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs. "We are indebted to the Gottesman family and the Handler Foundation for helping to raise academic standards through their giving."

Another participant, Judaic studies major Yonatan Miller, is helping Hebrew

instructor Hayim Tawil, PhD, compile a lexicon of Biblical Hebrew's little-understood words, using inscriptions in Akkadian, the *lingua franca* of the ancient Near East around four millennia ago. The YC senior is proofreading manuscripts, checking facts, and compiling various appendices for Dr. Tawil's book.

"I'm learning a tremendous amount about the methodology involved in comparing ancient languages," said Mr. Miller. "I've gained a breadth of knowledge, which I've applied in classes such as Arabic and ancient Jewish history."

For Tamar and Ronit Gold, both biology majors, the excitement comes from learning new lab techniques. Under Harvey Babich, PhD, SCW professor of biology, the Gold twins are measuring the effects of green tea on the growth of cells from the human mouth.

"You read about green tea in the news, but here we are doing hands-on work and seeing for ourselves how it works in the lab," said Tamar, who is considering a career in medicine.

"There are many scientists doing green tea research all over the world. It feels good to be part of that," she said.