



THE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY OBSERVER

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Yeshiva Students Find Their Way During Ongoing Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Abigail Bachrach When the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) launched its offensive, Operation Protection Edge, their country filled with a constant stream of sirens only lulled by temporary ceasefires from a fusillade of rockets. The mission, whose aim is to neutralize terror threats from Hamas and prevent the barrage of rockets coming from the Gaza Strip, began a lengthy battle between the Sunni militant group and the country Yeshiva University students call their homeland.

The conflict began after tensions intensified between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. This related to a series of events including failed peace talks earlier this year after the announcement of a Palestinian unity government with Hamas and Fatah; the kidnapping and murders of three Israeli boys, Naftali Fraenkel, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar; the subsequent murder of Mohammed Abu Khdeir, a Palestinian teen; and the arrests of numerous Hamas leadership members in the West Bank.

As Yeshiva University announced its solidarity with Israel, both in a press release and in statements made by the administration, it furthered its support at a pro-Israel rally attended by over 15,000

people. President Richard Joel voiced Yeshiva's support for Israel at the event that was organized by the UJA-Federation and Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "We must be strong and resolute so we can continue to be a light unto the nations," he said and, proceeding to echo the words that permeat-

ed the rally, continued, "We must stand with Israel."

But the event was not just the voice of the school administration. Hundreds of Yeshiva students and alumni attended to declare their solidarity. Shai Berman, YC '15, who took his lunch break early from a legal internship to attend

said, "With Israel coming under fire left and right in the arena of public opinion, I thought it was very important to show my support for our homeland."

Berman, who is Yeshiva College Student Association president for the upcoming school year, is not alone in his efforts to act on his beliefs about the conflict. With friends, family—and for many students, their Jewish identity—endangered across the ocean, there is no shortage of Yeshiva undergraduates who found their own ways to get involved.

Sarah Mandelbaum, a Stern senior who participated in the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program's "Art and Revolution in Paris" course this summer, used social media to make her own difference. "It kind of just happened," she said of her "Letters for IDF" project, of which participants have sent over a thousand cards or emails that will be delivered to soldiers. "We have a disconnect where we're here and they're there," said the Literature major, "And so I thought, what can we do to have those worlds collide and show we support them?"

Mandelbaum also helped raise money for American Friends of the IDF

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www.jewishexponent.com

What Montefiore-Einstein Merger Means for Pre-Med Students

Shalva Ginsparg Pre-med students with their sights on YU medical school encountered a twist on the road from B.A. to M.D. this May, when the university announced a merger between its Albert Einstein College of Medicine and New York's Montefiore Health System. Students wondering how the merger will impact the educational experience at Einstein can be assured that changes will largely be operational and not academic.

Elisa Karp, 24, is entering her second year at Einstein this fall, after graduating from Stern College in 2013. She plans on going into pediatrics and did research this summer for the pediatric emergency department at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

She isn't too concerned about the merger, which cedes \$100 million of the university's debt to Montefiore.

"We know Montefiore is taking a greater financial role, but YU is still the degree-granting institution," she said. "My diploma is still going to have 'Yeshiva University' on it."

She also said that e-mails sent to

Einstein students about the merger gave the impression that the changes will largely impact faculty, not students.

Dr. Stephen G. Baum, Senior Associate Dean for Students at Einstein, confirmed this point. He also noted that "Yeshiva students will be admitted as they have been in the past" and that "(d)ietary laws and religious holidays will be observed."

Dean Bacon shed further light on the post-merger application process to Einstein, noting that SCW's pre-med advisor "has been working all summer long on the current crop of students that will be applying next year, and the procedures are the same as they've been in the past in terms of applying to various medical school, including applying to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine."

Dean Bacon also said that the Anne Scheiber scholarship will not be impacted by the merger. A prize much vied for by SCW pre-meds, the scholarship awards up to full tuition to Stern students applying to Einstein.

When asked if the merger might

even benefit students by providing access to more resources, Dean Bacon said that while she doesn't know for sure, "anytime you're with a bigger organization you can make...a legitimate speculation that there will be more opportunities."

Even if the merger won't tangibly impact SCW students, it could do damage to morale. A Wall Street Journal article this summer about the university's financial woes quoted an alumna who expressed the view that the merger wasn't a good idea, because Einstein was the "gem in the crown" of the university.

But Dean Bacon says that students need not worry, as YU's commitment to first-rate academics, education, and students has not changed amidst the recent institutional changes.

Karp is optimistic too. Her parents and siblings have attended Yeshiva University and she describes it as a "family institution."

"I hope that it will be around for a long time," she said. "And until I hear otherwise, I am going to believe that it will be."

My Birth Right

Miriam Herst I found myself walking the streets of Tzfat a few weeks ago, trying my best to taste the spirituality I had been promised; looking for shadows of lost prophecies, promises of the path Messiah will one day walk, faded footprints of rabbis whose teachings I've long studied.

Instead there was blended iced coffee, thick summer heat and smoke drifting over from a nearby cigarette. First and foremost, though, were the artists that lined the cobblestone streets and the scents of oil paints from the back corners of the studios turned galleries. "Your paintings smell like something out of my childhood," I told one artist. She smiled back as the weathered wrinkles in her face creased. I'm still not sure she understood my English.

I spent ten days of June on a YC-Stern Birthright trip visiting Israel for the first time. The majority of the participants attend or just graduated from Yeshiva University or are friends with the YU participants. The rest were supplemented from NYU, Brooklyn College,

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The Power of a Headline: Reflections on the Summer and the Year Ahead

Elana Kook This summer, I experienced a rare moment of writer's block. I had great difficulty choosing a subject for this month's editorial. I went back and forth between two major issues that deserve equal recognition in this month's issue: the war in Israel and the on-going discussion in response to the fiscal challenges Yeshiva University faces. After much thought, I realized that the vitality of honest coverage of YU's current financial state and the war in Israel were not entirely mutually exclusive. Both subjects are tied together by the critical role the media plays in formulating the opinion of readers.

A large part of my summer has been spent refreshing my computer in a convulsing state of both hope and dread, searching for breaking news regarding the war in Israel. My phone vibrated constantly as an application alerted me of another siren somewhere in Israel, to the extent that I no longer found myself wincing upon seeing the same recurring target cities appear next to the tzeva adom, the red alert, announcements. The major newspapers speculated over the situation, and I found myself frustrated at the slanted view of the war that the media published in Hamas's favor, and how vulnerable people were to the influences of pro-Hamas propaganda. This summer, my mind has been right beside Israel in a state of war while the world has once again zeroed in on our small, yet boundlessly precious state.

Fortunately for me, I spent my summer in an environment where I was far from alone in experiencing these frustrations. As a division head in a Bnei Akiva camp, I was surrounded by individuals who felt the immense weight of the war, regardless of the great distance we stood away from the center of action.

Moreover, my environment this past summer stood in stark juxtaposition with the opposition glaring in the

headlines of the major media outlets. With each anti-Israel headline I read, I realized the extent to which my environment is unique, isolated within the warm confines of camp. When I read how the rest of the world viewed the conflict, the distance which once seemed to dissipate in the united front in camp became increasingly palpable from a global standpoint.

While we may be accustomed to discerning the truth behind the media's false allegations, a large portion of the world does not seem to have — or want to exercise — that capability. The world sees only the picture of a Palestinian mother mourning the loss of her child that Hamas allows the media to capture, and not the picture of the Hamas terrorists who put that child in harm's way. But that's simply human nature: what one hears and sees, is what one tends to believe.

More than ever, the media plays the role of a powerful catalyst for shaping opinions, leaving an immense responsibility on the shoulders of those creating the headlines.

This responsibility is something that resonates strongly as I write this editorial. Although admittedly on a smaller scale, the responsibility to effectively convey messages and report accurately lays heavily on *The Observer* staff. It is no secret that the year ahead is going to be a year of transition for Yeshiva University. While financial cuts will be necessary, a certain approach is going to be critical as we move forth in executing new practical solutions. The attitude with which our student publications approach the current financial predicament is the attitude that will trickle down to the broader Jewish community. It is the role of YU's publications to accurately report the happenings within the university without compromising our esteemed reputation.

There may be a fear that honest journalism and

upholding reputation cannot coexist. However, my challenge and goal for this coming year is for *The Observer* both to adhere to a high journalistic standard and to report justly, without overshadowing the major accomplishments of Yeshiva University. The paper serves as a source of information to the student body, but it is imperative to keep in mind that our student publications also bear weight with how alumni and Jews all over the world regard YU and its alumni, students, and staff. Both accuracy and tone are essential in accomplishing this goal. The facts should not be withheld, and the integrity of the university should not be compromised.

The Stern community must be aware of the happenings within the university in order for students to feel confident and proud of the institution to which they belong. I have overheard many students who heard through the rumor mill of pending changes, and are becoming increasingly agitated with "yet another cut" without understanding the full ramifications of what is happening and why. It is to the benefit of everyone for YU's publications to instill confidence, or at least reassurance, in the process. And by doing so, in return, the students will be adequately prepared as proud and informed representatives of YU to the broader Jewish community. If the student publications set a proper tone, while also reporting accurately, then our students will have both the proper facts and the right mindset in representing our university.

This is no easy task. The accomplishments and high regard for our university should not be overpowered by mere speculations and the adjustments that lay ahead. Each message we convey, the tone we use, and the headlines we write should be published with the understanding of the great influence they have both within and beyond the walls of Yeshiva University.

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Mazal Tov to all of our alumni who made aliyah over the summer. We wish you the best of luck. Continue making us proud



Lizzie Rozentsvayge and Rachel Miriam Rosenfeld

Interested in writing for *The Observer*? Come visit our booth at the Extracurricular fair and always **WRITE ON!**

Spreading the Sound of Music: Music Vs. Plans to Expand

Naamah Schwartz Music Vs., a student-led club that debuted on the YU campus three years ago, is now in expansion mode, a sign that its mission--spreading cheer to the ill and elderly through music--continues to hit the right note with YU students.

Music Vs. was created by Mark Weingarten, a Yeshiva College and RIETS student who also serves as the program director. Elisheva Jakobov and

Baila Kivelevitz lead the club on the SCW campus.

The goal of Music Vs. is for students to connect through the medium of music, song, and dance with children, veterans, and seniors who are dealing with various medical conditions.

Music Vs.'s model has already met with success. It was a semifinalist in Livestrong's 2014 Big C Competition, which provides grants and resources to winning programs whose work benefits cancer patients. The club also recently received a \$5,000 grant awarded by Neal's Fund, a Yeshiva University-based fund which provides small grants to student-charity-based startups to help the Jewish and general community.

Last year, students of the Yeshiva University branch, numbering over two-hundred students, made an effort to visit nursing homes in Washington Heights at least once a week in order to



share their gifts of music and create lasting bonds with the residents there.

Now, club leaders aim to duplicate this success in campuses, hospitals, and nursing homes worldwide.

In addition to the 24 already existing branches of Music Vs., fifteen new branches (in Canada, Israel, France, England, and South Africa) are currently in the works and scheduled to debut in the fall.

This summer, the club also launched the Music Vs. Summer Intern Program, run entirely by college students for high school students. The program enables

student interns to develop their leadership abilities while enriching the lives of the elderly and ill. It also aims to enhance Music Vs.'s credentials so the club can expand its recruiting and programming. To make the program available to students of diverse backgrounds, the program partnered with government-funded initiatives and non-profits such as the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York and the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee.

Students can expect to receive S-Studs and Y-Studs soon for more information about the club's programming and expansion projects this year.



<http://www.musicvs.org/>

A Significant Step Towards Financial Stability: Seth Moskowitz and Jacob Harman Appointed as New VPs

Sara Olson As part of Yeshiva University's continuing initiative to develop a more sustainable university model, the Office of the President announced two new appointments to the administrative leadership over the summer. A June 2nd email announced the appointment of Mr. Seth Moskowitz as vice president for institutional advancement. The second appointment on July 10th was of Mr. Jacob Harman as the vice president of business affairs and chief financial officer (CFO). Both Moskowitz and Harman come to their respective positions with years of experience and innovative ideas to bring to the table.

Moskowitz is filling the shoes of Mr. Daniel Forman, who led advancement for nineteen years and is now the senior philanthropic advisor for the

university. "Advancement" is business lingo for fundraising, a vital department for a non-profit organization. The money that Moskowitz and his department raise goes toward scholarships, programming, building funds, and general university operation.

"It's important to note that the alumni and volunteers involved with YU have been very generous," said Moskowitz. "It is due to their efforts that, since 2006, we have raised close to a billion dollars for the institution."

As the new vice president, Moskowitz has more in mind than just keeping the numbers up.

"My job, [in addition to] keeping up the good fundraising work, is to help the university to dream and continue growing as an institution by enabling the creation of more classes, programming, and other opportunities," he said. To achieve these goals, Moskowitz will continue to work closely with lay leaders and endeavor to involve more individuals outside of the YU family in the fundraising process. But importantly, Moskowitz noted that the first strategy for success is "not to try and fix what isn't broken."

Harman, appointed in the place of former CFO Toby Winer, is similarly invested in the continued growth of YU. As vice president of business affairs and CFO, he is in charge of ensuring that all operations by the university, specifically decisions on the business side of affairs, are

fiscally sound; his department is also responsible for financial accounting.

"My goals are to help the organization get on sound fiscal footing so that it can thrive and offer the high quality education [that it is known for]," he said, "as well as supporting the organization's strategic objectives by ensuring that the university makes its decisions based on appropriate financial information, and operates in a fiscally responsible manner."

To that end, the financial department will continue to work closely with university leaders, helping to "put forth responsible forecasts" and "implementing a process where the financial group assists university leaders in strategic university decisions." When it comes to creating sustainability, collaboration is the name of the game - "one of the positives about leading a team," said Harman. His department of business affairs and Moskowitz's department of institutional advancement have meetings together at least twice a week to "discuss initiatives and where we are headed [as a university]."

The question of where we as a university are headed is a big one in the minds of students. The two new appointments open a new chapter in YU's plans for greater sustainability, a chapter that will hopefully have positive results for students, faculty, and the university as a whole.

"If my department is doing a good job, we will see more scholarship money and more initiatives, such as interesting programming and great faculty," said Moskowitz. "If a university has a robust advancement department, it enables the university to dream and grow as an institution."

Harman concluded with an optimistic message regarding the positive outcome of a newly implicated fiscal plan for the university: "While the impact [of my department's activities] should be transparent, the overall effect of bringing the university to a stronger financial position will translate into a more positive environment for the entire university, both students and faculty."



Jacob Harman

Photo from <http://yu.edu/president/cabinet-bios/>



Seth Moskowitz

Photo from <http://blogs.yu.edu/news-and-views/page/2/>

YU Students During Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

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Rabbinate through a Soul Cycle class in her hometown Los Angeles. The organization, which is part of the National Council of Young Israel, is currently fundraising for "Project Go Green," which works to provide tzitzit garments for the IDF made of a material better suited to army duty.

A plethora of Yeshiva students found other ways to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict over their summer break. Many used their social media accounts to post about the war and pass on articles they found informative, alarming or noteworthy; a few made certain to post about both sides of the conflict, particularly regarding the humanitarian crisis and high number of Palestinian casualties in the Gaza Strip. A myriad of others called on their followers and friends to pray, get involved or stand in solidarity with Israel throughout the enduring operation.

No matter their location or their summer jobs and internships, Syms, Stern and Yeshiva College students took time to act. They attended rallies in their hometowns such as Chicago and Seattle; many volunteered and helped fundraise. Members of the school's Tefilah Club used the school's mass e-mailing system to encourage students to pray for Israel and provide them with corresponding prayers to say.

Junior Rivka Hia wanted to engage herself as much as she could. "As someone who feels a part of the nation," she said of her May arrival in Israel, "I thought I'm technically a tourist, but I'm here now so I should help." Hia then raised money to buy flashlights and water backpacks for a friend's unit, baked cookies and made cards for soldiers with her peers.

She also worked as a counselor as part of the Center for the Jewish Future's Counterpoint program that was last minute transferred to Dimona. "We lived every siren with them," she said of being in southern Israel during the war. While she admitted it was difficult, with many of the community members and campers' family in the army, she said, "I owe so much to YU for putting me there in the first place and sticking it out the whole summer...it shows how much they believe in what they do that they're willing to take the necessary precautions but also actualize and follow through on what they claim to do."

With the fall semester approaching, these students' efforts show no signs of stopping. Many hope to propel their summer experience to volunteer and make a difference even after what they hope will be an imminent resolution for the ongoing crisis. Some have developed new plans to emigrate to Israel.

Sy Syms student Daniella Leser, who is working with the school to coordinate a branch of the worldwide Shabbos Project that will unite Jews across New York for a weekend, is inspired by the endeavors of her fellow students. "Each student realizes it's their individual role in making a difference," she reflected, citing her friends' and community's responses to the kidnapping of the three boys and the current conflict with Hamas, "YU instilled in us how important it is to act and I'm just incredibly proud to be a student here."

Y HAVEN'T U HEARD?

Shalva Ginsparg, Sara Olson, and Devi Braun

New Assistant Director of Athletics

Yeshiva University announced the hiring of Erica Lemm as the new Assistant Director of Athletics. Erica Lemm is a graduate of Central Michigan University where she received a



Master of Arts in Sports Administration. Before working for YU, Lemm worked as sports coordinator for Washtenaw Community College, the Group Events/Sales Internship for the Detroit Pistons, a student ambassador with NASCAR Kinetics, and as an intern and volunteer for the Special Olympics in Michigan in 2009.

YU Welcomes Joseph Lieberman

July 24th - Articles on YU News and the US News website announced the appointment of former Senator Joseph Lieberman to the university faculty as the Joseph Lieberman Chair in Public Policy and Public Service. During the 2014-15 academic year, Lieberman will be teaching one undergraduate course and will pres-



ent three public lectures at various schools of the university on topics in-

cluding Judaism, the Middle East, and public service. The chair was created through a gift from university benefactors Ira and Ingeborg Rennert, and is Lieberman's second award from YU; he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1989 for his leadership in Jewish and civic affairs. Lieberman was the senator of Connecticut from 1989 to 2013 and was the running mate of Al Gore in the 2000 presidential election.

SCW Professors Awarded Tenure

Four professors at SCW were awarded tenure this summer: Marnin Young, Gaetano Bloise, Richard Hidary, and Matthew Miller. Dr. Young, who holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, is an associate professor of art history at Stern and a 2014 recipient of the Karen Bacon Faculty Award. His book, *Realism in the Age of Impressionism: Painting and the Politics of Time, 1878-1882*, will be published by Yale University Press in 2015. Dr. Bloise, who earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge, is a professor of economics at SCW. His areas of teaching and research include general equilibrium, monetary theory, macroeconomics dynamics and asset pricing. Dr. Richard Hidary holds a PhD from New York University. A beloved member of the Judaic faculty, Dr. Richard Hidary teaches courses in Bible, Second Temple Jewish history and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Talmud and Midrash, and Jewish ethics. His book, *Dispute for the Sake of Heaven: Legal Pluralism in the Talmud*, was published in 2010. He is currently working on a second book about the Greco-Roman context of the Talmud and Midrash. Dr. Matthew Miller holds a PhD in English literature from the University of Iowa and an MFA in creative writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. An English professor at SCW, he recently published *Collage of Myself: Walt Whitman and the Making of Leaves of Grass* (University of Nebraska Press 2010) and is currently researching the writings of Gertude Stein, George

Oppen, John Ashbery and other poets.

GPATS Bus Cancelled

August 7th - Rumors in July that the GPATS bus - also known as the "married bus" - would be discontinued in the fall have been established to be true. According to Adina Poupko in the Office of Student Life, the bus has been temporarily discontinued until further notice, due to the fact that "the cost of the bus above [the GPATS women's] stipend is just too much right now in the current fiscal situation." Options for reinstating the bus, which shuttles roughly thirty students from Washington Heights to the Beren Campus in the morning and evening, are being explored. In an email to students, Poupko indicated that the bus could be reinstated if enough students bought in for the bus. The cost per student would be around \$1,000 for the year.

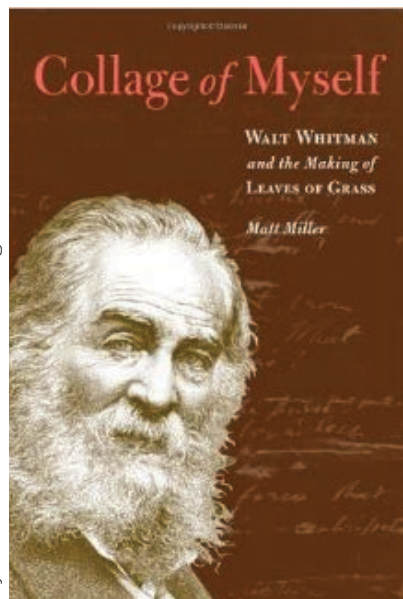
Speech Graduate Program Postponed

Initially scheduled to open its door in fall of 2014, the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology has been postponed. Its new proposed start date is fall 2015, pending the Council on Academic Accreditation's review of its application for candidacy. The program's director, Dr. Linda Carroll, has joined the YU faculty this fall.

Tenured Professors from left to right: Matthew Miller, Marnin Young, and Richard Hidary



Cover of Professor Matthew Miller's new book *Collage of Myself: Walt Whitman and the Making of Leaves of Grass*



Y HAVEN'T U WRITTEN FOR
THE OBSERVER YET?
CONTACT AN EDITOR TODAY TO GET INVOLVED

Summertime at Stern

Tzipporah Herzfeld There is almost nothing more thrilling to a college student than the feeling she gets after finishing her last final of the semester. After weeks of late nights, stress, studying, and rewriting notes, the feeling of finally being free and able to relax is unparalleled. For some students, however, the end-of-the-year euphoria is short-lived. In order to lighten their load during the year and to ensure they graduate on time, students often choose to take summer classes at Stern.

The administration at Stern wishes to enable students to get the most out of their education. Because a variety of interesting classes that fulfill various requirements are offered, the summer is an opportunity for students to take classes that they may not have time for or that they may not have been able to get into during the year. For example, Public Speaking, required for every single undergraduate student, and Fundamentals of Science, required for every non-science major student, are two of the most difficult classes to get into during the school year. These two courses, along with various others, are offered during the summer so that students do not have to worry about fitting these courses into their regular class schedule.

The dorm designated for those living on-campus during the summer this year was the 35th street building. Previously, the 29th street building has been used. Amanda Abady, a senior who took classes and lived on campus this summer, felt that living in 35th during

the summer was preferable. When asked why 35th was better than 29th, Abady said, "Because there's no meal plan during the summer, it's a lot better to have my own kitchen so that I have the option to cook my own food."

Although there is no meal plan and cafeteria cards are deactivated during the summer, laundry cards continue to work and can be refilled. Additionally, even without a meal plan and with fewer people around, Shabbos is still a warm, friendly, and inviting experience. There is a Shabbos R.A. room where everyone can relax together, although if one prefers to go away for Shabbos or just stay in her room, she is welcome to do so. Although Abady had never been to the R.A. room, she nevertheless appreciated its presence. She explained, "It's really nice to have the option for everyone to be together." She elaborated that it gave people a sense of community, bonding, and friendship, despite the fact that there were fewer people to talk to and visit.

During the summer, students are allowed to take classes on both the Beren and Wilf campuses. This summer, shuttles were available and ran every day that class was held. An e-mail was sent out the week before the first summer session started saying that shuttle services were available and that stu-

FEATURES

**Shira Kaye
Talia Stern**

dents should contact Dr. Gillian Steinberg, who is in charge of the summer shuttle services, if they needed a spot on the shuttle. The shuttles came to Stern from Washington Heights to drop students off for class in the morning and arrived at 12pm, 2pm, and 5pm to pick students up. For many, this took the stress out of travelling between campuses to get to class on time. One student who took summer classes at Stern during Summer 2012 was glad to hear that transportation was provided this summer. "It's good that there was inter-campus transportation this summer!" she remarked. "When I took classes [during a previous summer], I had to leave my class at Stern at exactly 12pm and run to catch the subway to make sure I was on time for class [on the uptown campus] every day. It added a lot of additional and unwanted stress. I'm glad students didn't have to go through that this year."

Stern also has committed security guards who work tirelessly through the summer to ensure the safety of the student body. When asked if the summer security shift was easier because there were fewer people's IDs

to check and the buildings were much quieter, Sylvia Rodrigues, a security guard in the 245 building, said that she and the other security guards felt the need to be more alert because it was quieter and emptier. During the summer, there are no guests allowed in the dorm overnight and everyone gets a specific summer sticker to put on their IDs so that security knows who should be allowed in the building. Safety is a top priority at Stern, even—and especially—during the summer.

Though school may not be anyone's first choice of fun summer plans, it is a great way to catch up on credits or even graduate early. If one wants to (or must) go to summer school, Stern's summer school program is appealing. Stern helps its students get the most out of summer school, both academically and socially, while also providing a safe and friendly environment.

SUMMER 2014

Writing Fiction: A Conversation with Professor Sophie Rosenblum



Sara C. Olson A new semester brings new faces and fresh opportunities to the students of Stern College. This year, the English department welcomes Professor Sophie Rosenblum, who will be teaching a fiction writing course during the Fall 2014 semester, much to the excitement of creative writing majors and students across the disciplines. Her interest in fiction, she said, began around age ten.

"I think what drew me to fiction was the ability to express my feelings about things through another lens," said Rosenblum. "Writing fiction allows you to combine your imagination with your emotions, which is pretty much the best thing I can think of doing."

As an undergraduate, Rosenblum majored in English with a concentration in creative writing. After graduation, she pursued careers in the field, teaching literature courses and writing workshops at Rice University, the University of Houston, and Florida State University.

Rosenblum's enthusiasm plus her solid background in the field ensures her students a great learning environment in which to explore the craft of writing fiction. "I plan to cover the basics of plot, character, and setting, but also move on to explore the ways in which we, as writers, can successfully break some of those rules," said Rosenblum. "I hope students will come away having read and written a range of short stories and having

found a sense of confidence in their work."

In addition to teaching, Rosenblum is involved with several writing projects. She is currently working on a novel for her PhD, which she hopes to finish in the next year. She serves as a web editor for the literary journal *NANO Fiction* and is a freelance writer for several magazines and newspapers. She also writes flash fiction (fiction under a thousand words), and she is currently working on a flash fiction collection.

When she isn't writing or teaching, Rosenblum, a great fan of dogs, likes to spend her leisure time at a dog park. "I don't own a dog – yet – but I really love watching dogs socialize," she said. Her other hobbies include cooking, travelling with her husband, and of course, reading. Her current favorite book is *The Scenic Route* by Binnie Kirshenbaum. "I often return to passages in it when I'm stuck with my own writing," she said.

A native New Yorker whose father taught at NYU, Rosenblum grew up knowing several of the universities in the area, and is excited to be working here at Stern College. "[When] I visited Stern College for the interview, it was very clear that Yeshiva creates an environment that is both academically rich and nurturing," she said. "Having attended a small liberal arts college with those same values, I feel very lucky to be included in this wonderful community of people."

Playing in the Dirt

Sara Pool Archeologists and children have much in common. Both enjoy playing in the dirt, although archeologists would refer to dirt as sediment—it is science after all. Every summer Dr. Jill Katz brings a group of Yeshiva University students to join her in the Tell es-Safi excavations. In this unique summer class students learn the methods and theory of an archeological excavation while enjoying an opportunity to revisit their childhood with a grown-up twist.

The Tell es-Safi excavation is located in the area known as Canaanite and Philistine Gath, home of Goliath. It is one of the largest pre-classical sites in the eastern Mediterranean, settled continuously from late pre-historic through modern times. Since 1996, Professor Aren M. Maeir has directed excavations on the site. Many groundbreaking finds, including the earliest known siege system in the world, the earliest deciphered Philistine inscription, and extremely rich and well-preserved evidence of various cultures, peoples, and historical events have been unearthed. The finds have been astonishingly rich and suggest that the project will become one of the most important excavations in the Southern Levant.

Students from all over the world join the Safi team every year. The group is generally comprised of a wide variety of people. Many are students of archeology and range from undergrad to post-doctorate. Two members of the YU team this year, Shani Guterma and Sima Fried, had a previous interest in archeology and chose to participate in the dig to discover if

they would like to pursue a career in the field. There is also a large presence of students who are studying unrelated subjects and individuals who join the team as a hobby or side interest. The three other YU students who participated this season varied in majors from math (Yael Eisenberg) and business (Asher Perez) to studio art (Sarala Pool).

This year was the team's seventeenth season excavating. The season began as expected—the excavation ran smoothly, and new finds were unearthed every day. After a week, however, an unexpected siren disrupted what had quickly become routine. Panicked students were ushered toward the bomb shelters. Excavations were halted for two days while director Aren Maeir received updates from the home front as to how to proceed. During the recess the staff pulled together impromptu workshops and lectures for the students, such as learning the alphabet in hieroglyphics and paleo-Hebrew, how to draw Philistine birds, overviews of Judaism and Islam, and more. Understandably a portion of students was frightened by the security situation and a large group of students chose to leave the country. Despite the constant barrage of sirens

the entire Yeshiva University team remained and continued digging with as much alacrity as before. Professor Maeir expressed his admiration for the YU team, "who were excellent workers in the field, had the greatest sense of humor and camaraderie, and stuck it out for the entire season—despite the missiles flying left and right! The YU community should be very proud of the YU team and their leader, Professor Jill Katz."

Losing thirty students in addition to halting the excavations for two days was a significant setback for the team. Nonetheless, those that stayed continued to uncover new finds. Under the supervision of Dr. Katz the YU team continued to expose a city forti-

fication wall. They also found the head of an animal figurine, five beads of a necklace, six complete vessels, among them two lamp and bowl deposits, numerous pounding and grinding stones, and a phytolith deposit that likely represents a grain storage area. YU student Sima Fried said that "the mystery, wonder, and excitement of the actual excavation, and go[ing] up to the Tell never knowing exactly what you might find," was part of what she liked most about participating in the dig. In that sense, archeologists and children have even more in common: both groups enjoy exploring, except archeologists actually find the treasure their younger selves diligently searched for.



Housing For Combined and Joint Program Students

Daniella Penn Students participating in Stern joint or combined degree programs with other universities can apply for housing in university dormitories as of Fall 2013 (three semesters ago). Stern offers Joint Programs with ten graduate schools, including NYU Nursing School, Columbia School for Engineering, Azrieli Graduate School for Jewish Education, and Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies. Last spring, seven students participating in the joint degree programs chose to remain in Stern housing while attending classes elsewhere.

For students undergoing the already-tumultuous transition into graduate school, especially those beginning graduate classes in the spring, the option to continue living at Stern can prove to be advantageous.

"It was really stressful," Kimmy Samet, a student enrolled in the joint Stern-NYU nursing program as of Spring 2014, said of her transition. "I was going to [graduate] school earlier than all my friends, a semester early, because I was starting in the spring. I didn't even have time to figure out my roommates [at NYU] and all the apartments were already taken up." She continued on to explain that not having to move out of Stern dormito-

ries "[released] so much stress."

The option for students participating in joint programs to live in university housing was preceded by another exception to standard housing policies, university housing for part-time students, in Fall 2012. Part-time students are those with only a few credits left to complete before graduation that will do so within a semester.

"As a general rule, we don't like to make exceptions," said Rachel Kraut, Housing Director. "It just isn't fair... The overarching rule [when it comes to housing] is that you must be a full-time student." She explained, however, that when "one or two students" were asking every year about housing options for part-time and joint programs, it made sense to incorporate these options into official housing policy—albeit requiring a separate application.

This past fall, three students participating in joint programs resided in University Housing. By spring, the number had grown to seven. Most of the increase was due to students in the NYU Nursing Program, which begins in the spring and is located just a mile away, Kraut explained. In Spring 2014, three students in joint programs

were enrolled in NYU Nursing, one in Azrieli School for Jewish Education, one in Bernard Revel School for Jewish Studies, and one in Columbia School for Engineering.

While Kraut does not think the new housing option will directly impact a student's decision to participate in the joint programs (as she put it, "Academics come first. Housing comes next"), Michelle Levine, a senior majoring in Physics hoping to attend the joint Columbia Engineering program, articulated the advantages of being able to live at Stern while beginning another graduate program.

"One hesitation I had in considering the Columbia joint program after these past two years in Stern was that I was not ready to leave the community that I had formed within this school. I really enjoy living in the heart of midtown with incredible roommates, in a frum environment with the opportunity of constantly meeting new people in the elevators, hallways, and classrooms."

For many of us, leaving the comforts of Stern is a semi-frightening reality. Samet spoke of what is for many of us an uncomfortable truth: "Moving from Stern to somewhere else is scary. It just is." She said that

dorming in Stern while attending graduate school was "a good stepping stone," and emphasized that "Stern was very accommodating."

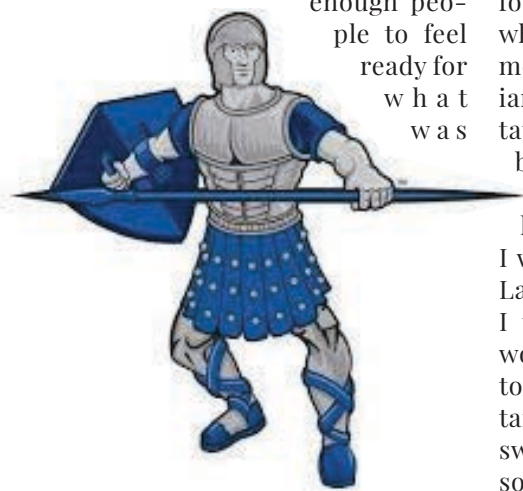
"There are so many reasons to stay in Housing," said Kraut, ranging from security guards ("you won't find those in the Heights") to social comforts. Students who remain in dorms usually do so partly because their friends are still there, especially students beginning graduate school in the spring.

When asked where students who participate in joint programs usually choose to dorm around the Beren Campus, Kraut answered, "all over," depending on individual preferences like wanting a quiet versus social atmosphere. "It's not Brookdale," she qualified, however. Kraut doesn't expect the number of joint program students housing in Stern to rise significantly and stated, "We're just starting off. It's an experimental initiative, and we expect it to continue."

If you feel uninformed about housing policies in Stern, check your sstuds! University housing for those participating in the joint or combined degree programs may prove to be useful to you, or one of your friends, in the future.

The Mac Family

Julia Owen It was the dawn of my first semester at Stern College. I took a right out of Brookdale, headed straight down thirty-fourth Street until after I crossed Lexington, took a left, and found myself at the bottom of the stairs of the Stern building for the very first time. I looked up at the revolving door, took a deep breath, and prepared myself to be surrounded by all things new and not-yet-comfortable. I didn't know what to expect, and I didn't know enough people to feel ready for what was



to come.

I spent the day navigating tunnels of excited, screaming girls who had found some sort of home in this place which felt so foreign and isolating to me. Although I became more familiar with my school routine, my hesitations did not change until returning back to school after the holidays.

Despite having played basketball since I was three years old, I was unsure about trying out for the Lady Macs basketball team because I was worried about my impending workload. However, I was convinced to attend tryouts by one of the captains. My experience at tryouts was sweaty, to say the least, but I gained something more significant than just

a good workout. I saw a group of girls who shared more than a love for the game of basketball. They acted like they had known each other for their whole lives, but had met each other just one year before. They laughed together, and also pushed each other to run lines just a little bit faster than they thought they could. Not only did I see a team, but I saw a family that I wanted to be a part of.

When anyone asks me about Stern, all I can talk about is the amazing, life-long friends I have made because I chose to join the basketball team. There isn't a single teammate who doesn't make me want to jump from excitement as I pass them on Thirty Fourth Street or by the Syms

escalators. The feelings we get upon seeing one another is one we all hope to spark in our new fellow Lady Macs who will join the team this year. Because I spent most of last season on the bench due to a bad ankle injury, I used this summer to completely heal so that I can get back on the court this fall and rejoin the team. I can't wait to be a part of building our new team alongside a family of dedicated and unique women.

The sense of family I have gained from joining the YU Athletics community is something I could not have found anywhere else. I would like to extend a big thank you to the YU Athletic Director, my coaches, and the Lady Macs family.

Do's and Don'ts to Fight off the Freshmen Fifteen!

Ariella Sieger Before you even knew which college you would eventually attend, magazines, newspapers, family, and friends were warning you about that daunting "freshmen fifteen." What characterizes this national phenomenon is the transition, not only to a new schedule and place, but also to a new lifestyle. The transition from paper bag lunches and home cooked meals, to cafeteria food and dorm room treats, can often be hard for many college students, resulting in significant weight gain. To help avoid the notorious "freshmen fifteen," here are a few easy tips you can implement to make your college years the healthiest years.

Don't: Skip Breakfast

In order to salvage that extra five minutes of sleep, students often skip breakfast, famously known as "the most important meal of the day." In order to get your metabolism started for the day, it's important to get in a proper meal in the morning consisting ideally of some protein and whole grains. Also, people often think skipping breakfast is fine considering people generally are not as hungry when they first wake up;

however, research has shown that those who skip breakfast generally eat more throughout the day due to severe hunger strikes around lunch time, often leading to either grabbing the closest food (which can be unhealthy), or having a huge lunch and dinner to compensate. In addition, studies have shown that students who eat breakfast are better able to concentrate throughout the day. Some good options for breakfast include oatmeal, yogurt, or whole grain cereal.

Do: Drink Lots of Water

This is one piece of health advice dieticians and doctors unanimously agree upon. Water has been proven time and time again as one of the key ingredients to staying healthy. Keeping properly hydrated not only stabilizes the metabolism, but also allows the body to digest all of the food eaten throughout the day and

lubricates joints, helping build muscle and promoting ease of mobility in exercise. The recommended daily intake is approximately eight cups of water. An easy way to get in this amount of water is by carrying a Camelback or a refillable filtered water bottles and filling it up throughout the day at the nearest water fountain or sink.

Do: Rejuvenate Your Exercise Regimen

It's very easy to get bored of the same exercise routine, resulting in decreased motivation and ultimately a lack of physical activity. Research shows that switching up exercise routines tricks one's body and prevents weight loss plateau by stopping our bodies from adapting to our routines. So try to switch up your daily exercises and look for fun classes around the city in which to sign up! Fun exercise classes include Spinning, Zumba,

Kickboxing, Yoga, Parkour, and just walking around exploring the city.

Don't: Eat Before Bed

We all know that the ultimate snacking time is while we're doing our homework or watching TV in bed, but it's time to nix that habit! Our metabolism slows down as we reach bedtime, therefore causing all the food we eat at night to sit in our stomach and become fat instead of being properly metabolized and converted to usable glucose. Therefore, try to stop eating approximately two hours before bed. If that's too hard, try just one hour, and slowly work your way up to two. Having this self-control will also prevent you from giving in to those late night slurpee or ice cream run temptations.

Do: Pump Up Your Playlist

We've all had that moment on the treadmill or elliptical where we just can't go anymore. How to fix that? Easy! Download some awesome tunes from iTunes that will pump up any exercise routine. Blasting some of your favorite songs can easily help you overcome those weak moments and keep you moving faster for longer, while still enjoying yourself as you sing along.

Do: Lighten Up Your Salad

It's very easy to think that salad=healthy. However, when you toss in some fried chicken and Craisins and drench the lettuce in dressing, you could easily be packing on an extra hundred calories. Try to pack in the vegetables first, add lean proteins, and limit sugary-filled toppings. As for dressing, try to have it on the side and dip your fork into it as you take bites of your salad, ensuring dressing in every bite, but significantly reducing your calorie intake.

College is a fantastic time to enjoy your independence and start customizing your own lifestyle, so take this opportunity to make these next few years healthy and happy!

HEALTH CORNER

Devi Braun

MEET YOUR SCW PRESIDENTS

SCWCS President Michal Aiash

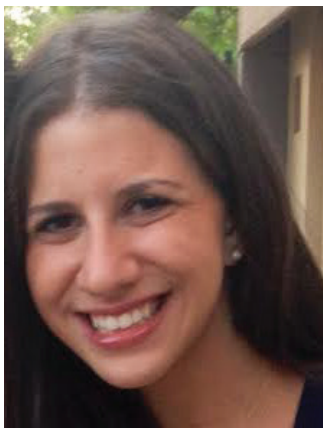
Hey! I am so excited to be serving as the SCWCS President this year. I just want to share a little bit about myself. I hail from all the way across the Brooklyn Bridge, from a popular Jewish neighborhood called Flatbush. I am majoring in studio art and minoring in business with the hopes of doing something special with my life, I am just not sure what that is yet. Over the past two years at Stern I have been involved in many things, such as MacsLive and QUEST (both highly recommended). Last year I was the Vice President of SCWCS and really enjoyed it, which is why I decided to stay on board for this year. There are many things I am looking forward to doing this year so pay attention to your SSTUDS and stay in the loop. Be



aware of all the events, clubs and opportunities surrounding you and maximizing your experience. If you have an idea for an event, club or any initiative, or if you just want to introduce yourself and say hello, please feel free to come over to me or email me! Wishing everyone a great school year!

SYMSSC President Talia Kugelman

Hey everyone! My name is Talia Kugelman, and I am President of SYMSSC. I am a Marketing major and Management minor at Sy Syms, and truly cannot wait for an exciting and eventful year ahead here on campus! As President of SYMSSC, my role is to ensure that all of the business school students have the best experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Whether that's via clubs, various events such as the SYMS Dinner or SYMS Shabbaton, my role is to help plan, and ensure that all runs smoothly. As a Beren Campus representative from SYMSSC my role as President includes collaborating with both SCWCS and TAC regarding inter-council campus events such as chagigas, welcome back events, and Yom Haatzmaut.



My goal for this year is twofold: to get more women involved in Sy Syms, and to create more school spirit amongst the Sy Syms community. Follow us on social media - Instagram @symssc15, Twitter @symscouncil, and on Facebook- 'SYMS Student Council (SYMSSC)'!

Can't wait to see you all on campus!

TAC President Amanda Esraeilian

Hello! My name is Amanda Esraeilian and I am currently in my senior year at Stern College for Women and double majoring in Education and English Communications. I chose Stern because it allowed me to experience many things as a practicing Jew that I hadn't ever had the opportunity to do prior to coming to Stern. For example, having the ability to go to the cafeteria and being able to walk out of the bathroom and not worrying about people looking at you like you're crazy for mouthing the words of asher yaatzar to yourself.

This year I am the TAC (Torah Activities Council) President. Which means that my incredible board and I oversee all the Jewish clubs on campus, take an active role in enhancing the Shabbat experience, and



run all the major events on campus. This year we are working to empower each student to explore her Jewish identity. I want every student to walk out of Stern feeling as though they have a positive outlook on Judaism, whatever that may be. TAC is looking forward to a really incredible year.

COOUTURE DE BRIDE

BY

Tovee Thane



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My Birth Right

Continued from page 1

Touro, and Harvard, and a few others were assigned based on personal requests and connections.

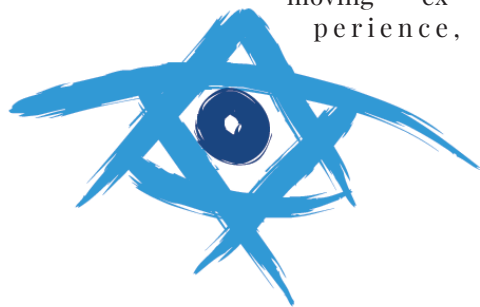
The ten days were spent on hikes that promised to build muscles in my calves, my character, and an intensified bond with the other participants. We toured historical landmarks in Tel Aviv and sat in circles up north in Nahariya discussing the politics and history that surrounded us. We had been promised when we accepted the trip that these ten days would turn us into a family. I had smiled and internally rolled my eyes but was genuinely surprised to find myself crying during the goodbyes at the airport on the way home.

It wasn't until the day before we left back to America that we made it to the Kotel, warnings to dress modestly ringing in our ears as we got ready that morning. We spent some time in the city of David, touring tunnels that date back to the Second Temple Era, slowly making our way into the heart of Jerusalem.

When we arrived, I found myself living the photographs I had seen for years and wishing I had paper and a pen to start documenting. It was a moving experience,

finding myself finally whispering Psalms with one hand against the Western Wall, the other clutching my siddur close. I stood there and prayed surrounded by women, some so different from me. After we'd finished we were given free time and my friends and I sat eating pizza and drinking coffee in a brightly lit cafe.

A young boy stood hovering beside our table, a tall mop in hand and a small smile on his face. We used our broken Hebrew to offer him pizza and we were rewarded with a vigorous nod. We sat him down, gave him a slice and offered to buy him a Coke. He sat with us for the better part of our lunch break, telling us that he was four-and-a-half and that he was walking home from school alone. We spoke around him in English as he inhaled his lunch, murmurs of, "only in Israel" coming up more than once. We had never seen a boy of that age take food from strangers as easily as he would from his own mother.



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ARTS & CULTURE

Abigail Bachrach

That night I lit candles under the open skies and our group made our way to the Kotel for Friday night davening. We joined the slowly moving line that snaked down the stairs into the entranceway and found ourselves surrounded by soldiers. I wonder now which of these boys fought on the frontlines a week later when war broke out; if any of them trained for combat with the soldiers we've already lost.

Our group divided at the bottom, with the boys leading a minyan on one side of the mechitza and the girls finding common tunes to Friday night prayers on the other. Afterwards, we watched a circle of soldiers singing and dancing together. My brothers, I kept thinking.

I think back to that day now and note that nowhere else in the world have I found a culture of strangers feeding children. Yehuda, our little hungry friend, won us over with his big brown

eyes and soft voice. I saw my younger brother in him, my newborn niece, and my future children, G-d willing. In my ten days in Israel, I learned that the culture there is predominantly one of familiarity. I saw myself and my family reflected one thousand times in every soldier, every child, every new mother and every shop owner. I found my childhood in the not-yet-dried oil paintings in those studios in Tzfat.

That day in Tzfat I swallowed the cigarette smoke and lost prophecies and I fell in love with a painting there. It reminded me of a piece that hangs in my grandmother's living room and I asked the gallery owner who the artist was. "I'll write his name down for you," she told me, "And take my business card. Take a picture of the painting and when you get married, send me the photo. I'm sure your parents will buy it for your new home." She spoke as if she knew me, as if she knew the future, as if we were family.

Get Tanked: NYC's Water Tanks Get a Meaningful Makeover

Makena Owens On a trip to Ethiopia in 2007, filmmaker Mary Jordan got sick. She had traveled to a remote village to shoot an ethnographic documentary and was struck with an illness that debilitated her and her filming process. Fortunately, caring and hospitable locals nursed Jordan back to health and in return asked her to make them a promise—one with global implications and of necessity and high priority.

The promise? Solve the global water crisis.

Daunting as the task may sound, Jordan was up for the challenge. When she arrived back in New York City, she gazed toward the sky and saw the solution peeking out amongst the city skyline: the 17,000 water towers scattered throughout Manhattan. As an artist, Jordan wanted to combine her passion for social justice and change with her love for creativity, so she launched her first non-profit organization Word Above the Street. The institute is essentially a larger version of Jordan herself, calling on artists to engage and educate the global community on environmental and social issues through public displays of creativity.

But Word Above the Street was just Jordan's first step. In 2012 she began planning and funding the Water Tank Project, ready to keep the promise she made to the Ethiopian villagers five years before and inspired by the thousands of tanks that filled the NYC skyline. Her goal is to display

Manhattan's largest public art show by involving over a hundred established and upcoming artists to spread awareness about the global water crisis and teach New Yorkers—and the world—that it is indeed solvable.

As of now, there are over one billion people worldwide without clean water. Even for those who do have access, the water is so contaminated with silt that it's actually more harmful than hydrating. Jordan's mission is to communicate this urgent message to the people of New York who have virtually unlimited access to pure drinking water through the city's water towers and to hopefully instill an appreciation for the clean water available locally and nationally.

On July 30, 2014—after two years of fundraising and preparation—the first NYC water tank was wrapped in a canvas designed by photographer and artist Laurie Simmons. The pilot exhibit can be seen clearly from 29th Street and 11th Avenue in Chelsea (just eight avenues away from Schottenstein—by the way). The canvas features one of Simmons' famous prints titled *Diving* and pictures a life-size doll in a vibrant red dress plummeting headfirst into a bubbling, blue pool of water. The photograph is part of Simmons' collection *The Love Doll*, a series of photographs that captures both life-size and miniature dolls engaged in realistic, human activities. Other notable contributors to the Water Tank Project include

Bruce Weber, Jay-Z, and Marilyn Minter.

Another important aspect to Word Above the Street—and by extension, the Water Tank Project—is its use of technology to drive social action and motivate people to work to change the water crisis. The Water Tank Project utilizes the most popular social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, to update followers on the project's progress and share humorous and educational quotes and images relating to the world's water.

The collaborating artists that Jordan selected share her passion and excitement and have voiced their own eagerness to participate in the Water Tank Project. In Jordan's Kickstarter video, collaborating artist Marilyn Minter explained, "I love public art... most of the time that I've done it, it's been all aesthetic—but a reason behind it makes it all the more powerful. That's the most powerful art you can make." While other NYC public art shows have made their debut in the last year, such as the Art in the Park exhibit and Art Everywhere in

Times Square, Jordan's is unique for its global cause and educational message. It's also the largest coordination of artists for a public exhibit among the aforementioned exhibits and utilizes the skyline in an unprecedented way.

While Jordan hasn't released when the next tank will be covered in the next artful wrapping, she knows that her mission doesn't end in New York. She hopes to travel across the country in order to educate students and inspire activists to bring the project to other cities across the United States. Her main message: Art to save water, water to save lives. Keep a lookout for the water tanks-turned-canvas popping up around NYC, and remember to be thankful that your water is clean and pure.



news.err.ee

Mon Voyage à Paris (My Trip to Paris)

Sarah Mandelbaum What a whirlwind my ten-day trip to Paris was!

Let me rewind. Having never been to Paris before, I was eager to sign up to take a course there when Stern offered its students a once in a lifetime chance to go. To be honest, it didn't matter to me *what* the course was, even though I did end up enjoying it—but more on that later. I was lucky to be joined by two of my friends who roamed the Parisian streets with me, and I was going to Paris.

So cut to June 16th, the day I touched down in the beautiful and enchanting city of Paris with eleven fellow Stern students ready to see what the city had to offer. Just so you know, everything you hear about it is true—from the buttery croissants to the colorful and perfect macarons,



all the way to the Eiffel Tower and the iconic Arc de Triomphe—these are the iconic elements of Paris that bloggers brag about and magazines artfully describe, and they are every bit as stunning in person as they are in printed words.

We dined all over the city, with L'As du Falafel as the first stop on our list, of course. Having heard of this restaurant, which is in the Jewish quarter of the Marais, we were ecstatic to be able to enjoy their delicious falafel followed by a walk around the quaint—yet now super hip—*arrondissement*, the French name for the districts that section its beautiful capital city. The meals were nothing short of *délicieux*. I can even taste the foie gras from Kavod on the famed Champs-Élysées as I recall the delicious treat.

My classmates and I filled our days with sightseeing, which included the most sought-after tourist attractions and Instagram-worthy spots. Notre Dame, to which the Disney movie does little justice, truly does have frightening gargoyles adorning its walls. The Louvre, an architectural masterpiece of a museum that houses some of the greatest works of art of all time, holds the Mona Lisa—a bit overrated, in my opinion (and a place to get pickpocketed). Musée d'Orsay, my personal favorite, is actually an old train station, which houses the most exquisite impressionist paintings by Monet, Degas, Renoir, and countless others. And the obligatory day trip, of course, to the

overly crowded and ornate Palace of Versailles, which drips of gold from every corner.

After an evening boat ride along the Seine River, we managed to watch the sunset while picnicking under the glamorously lit Eiffel Tower. But aside from experiencing these obvious splendors that Paris has to offer, I still had a class to take. Ugh. To my surprise, however, Paris became the perfect backdrop to my course on the French Revolution. Rather than sitting in a sterile classroom, watching the clock tick and hearing the drone of my teacher's monotone voice, I experienced the French Revolution in the liveliest, most engaging way possible.

I took in the French attitudes (at their finest), and the sensory of that allowed me to get a glimpse of what the French in the 1700's were like. Unlike the young Country of America, Paris is a



Gargoyle atop Notre Dame Cathedral

city that has been around for centuries; there is a wealth of history that you sense even as you walk along the cobblestone streets and gaze at the beautiful architecture of each building. In short, Paris is a time capsule—carefully preserved since its most iconic eras, yet brilliantly alive as a modern, metropolitan city.



Finding Art in Unexpected Places

Emily Chase The ocean shore, with its crystal blue sky, deep waves, and smooth sand, has often been a place of fascination and inspiration for art. Many people like to bring its beauty home and arrange shells over mirrors, picture frames, lamps, and other objects to remind them of the ocean. From photographs, paintings and drawings of the coast to jewelry that is made from shells and pearls, the seaside has provided an artistic outlet for many. But perhaps one of the most recent and fascinating forms of beach-inspired craft is sand art.

Ilana Yahav from Israel performs a contemporary style of art called sand animation. She applies sand to a surface illuminated on a big screen and then uses her hands to shape and move the sand into images. None of the art stays for long. She quickly forms, erases and recreates images to tell a story to the audience, leaving a beautiful and powerful impact—if only momentary. Yahav's ability to create something with

her hands, coupled with the simplicity and temporariness of her designs, are what make them so exciting.

On her website Yahav says that she always looks for new ways of “expressing the range of human emotions,” and that her early childhood experiences drew her close to the sand as a form of art. She remembers playing on the shores of the Mediterranean during her childhood and explains, “I would draw a personal story, a kind of living diary in the sand. I would draw quickly, trying to finish it all before the wave would come and wipe everything out. I was totally spellbound. I would stand and watch until the drawing disappeared, realizing that everything is transient and temporary...”

Another sand artist, Andres Amador, a San Francisco native, calls himself an “earthscape painter.” He creates breathtaking, gigantic, and elaborate beach murals by raking the sand during a low tide. The color contrast between the wet sand he unearths and the un-

touched dry sand helps him to “draw” onto the sand. He started out drawing geometric shapes, deriving inspiration from ancient architecture. Now Amador focuses more

on designs inspired by the natural world around him.

Amador believes that the focus of an earthscape painting should be on the process of making the art, and not on the end product. He also notes that he used to create sculptures and would fill his garage with the many things he had no use for but wanted to keep. He says with this beach art it is different, saying, “With this I get to take photos, but I can let all of it go, and there's a big lesson in that.” And perhaps the ephemeral quality to his work also enriches the art, making it more fragile, more delicate, and ultimately more beautiful.

In an interview after completing one of his pieces of art, Amador is quoted saying, “The art that I did today, it is going to be washed away, it is not going to last, but through my own experience of happiness, everyone who watched feels happy.” He thinks that the happiness from his art can spread around the world, little by little. He claims, “The image might inspire something, that a little bit of impact will occur, where I think, I really do feel that it has ongoing cumulative quality of shifting the consciousness.”



sandfantasy.com

Amador says that people ask him why he makes art that is going to wash away in a matter of hours. He responds, “Life is not going to last, nothing we will do will last, and so the question becomes: why do anything? What is the endearing value in anything that we do? All that really matters is that we are living life in joy, in a joyous way...where we feel we are invigorated and our souls shines even brighter...why wouldn't we do that, even if it is something that is going to wash away.”

The importance of the type of art that Yahav and Amador create is its ability to embrace the present, to relinquish its hold on the past, and especially its grope toward the future. The innovators remind their audiences that the beauty of art is not in its ability to last, but in its ability to inspire and invoke powerful thoughtful changes in the minds of individuals and society.



sandfantasy.com

A Response to the Changes to the GPATS Program

Blanche Haddad Concerned over the fate of the GPATS program, I emailed Rabbi Kahn, a leading *Talmud* scholar here at Stern and my professor for the past few years. On June 26th, he responded with certainty that the GPATS curriculum would remain unchanged.

Right before finals season began in the middle of May, both *The Commentator* and *The Observer* published articles presenting differing views on the proposed changes to the GPATS program. Speculations included an altered curriculum to provide more professional training, with less focus on Gemara *b'lyyun*, in-depth *Talmud* study, and *Yoreh Deah*, practical areas of Halakha, such as *kashrut*. The annual stipend would be cut for those intending to pursue a career within the Jewish community, and those pursuing careers in other fields would be charged fifteen thousand dollars a year. *The Commentator* claimed that the changes would be detrimental to the future of GPATS and its students, threatening the seriousness of the program, while *The Observer* maintained that these changes would uphold the integrity of the program.

The email that was sent to me in June by Rabbi Kahn, a prominent member of the GPATS faculty, assured me that the curriculum would remain

intact. This was by far the most crucial element that needed to be maintained in order for GPATS to remain the same serious and sophisticated women's Torah scholarship program it had been in the past.

Until now, the program has remained stagnant. GPATS has not grown since its inception in 1999. The first class of 2000 had only eight students. This past June, the graduating class also held eight students (next year's graduates will be a whopping ten). Suffice it to say it is a small program, but in no way does this reflect the substantive role that it plays in advancing women's Torah scholarship within the Orthodox community.

One of the confirmed changes in the program is in regards to the reduction of the annual stipend received by full-time GPATS students. In the early years of full-time students received an annual stipend of eighteen thousand dollars (today that would be slightly less than twenty-five thousand dollars, due to inflation) taken from a benefaction of Ambassador Alfred Moses. Eventually, funds ran low and the stipend was reduced to fifteen thousand dollars paid to full-time students. GPATS will now fall

OPINIONS

Maddie Zimlover
Renana Nerwin

under the administration of Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), and the stipend amount will be reduced to five thousand dollars annually as of Fall 2015.

It is my understanding that the stipend was meant to provide basic living expenses to the program's students. Full-time learning means very little working at best, unemployed at worst. Would a sixty-percent reduction in stipend deter women from enrolling in the program? That was my initial reaction and fear. While five thousand dollars is a considerable amount of money that no one would refuse, it is considerably less than the fifteen thousand dollars paid in the past, or even the eighteen thousand paid fifteen years ago.

While it is a valid concern, it's just that: a concern. As apologetic as it sounds, if a potential student is interested in attending the program out of commitment to furthering her Torah education or perfecting her learning skills or whatever her reason may be, she will still enroll. Yes, GPATS used to offer its students a free master's degree and a heftier stipend, but due

to financial constraints, the stipend must be reduced. GPATS will continue to award its students a free master's degree and every student will receive a five thousand dollar stipend annually. While the stipend reduction is indeed a matter of circumstance, it's also an important signifier that the administrators of the program are confident that women will continue to enroll in the program regardless of stipend cuts. Perhaps then, by implication, women's Torah scholarship has become considered slightly more the norm, a little bit more accepted.

Although there may be a few technical changes, the mission of GPATS remains resolute. As it stands, GPATS is the only Orthodox program in the United States that offers serious Torah learning for women at a high level and awards its students a Master's degree upon graduation.

Time will tell whether or not my speculation will ring true. While it's possible that the budget cuts will harm GPATS, we can only hope that the CJF will maintain GPATS and the vital role it plays in the Modern Orthodox community.

A Letter to Yuval Haiman: Reflections on My Visit to a Soldier's Funeral



Lt. Yuval Haiman, 21, from Eiratz
www.idfblog.com

soldier from Efrat who fell in battle yesterday. I'm searching for the words to express the event, and I can't think of anyone to address them to other than Yuval.

Yuval, I never had the privilege of meeting you personally. How strongly do I wish that I could have gotten to know you anywhere but here...at your funeral. This morning, I learned so much about the holy life you led. You were the beloved first born. Everyone kept men-

tioning that you embodied the trait of modesty. I listened to your brother cry about how much he'll miss your erev Shabbat phone calls. You always comforted everyone else, even in the hardest of times, reassuring them that "hakol y'hiyeh b'seder," everything will be all right. Your mother expressed that there wasn't one day that went by that she didn't tell you how much she loved you. She courageously said that she was sending a hug to

the twenty-six other mothers grieving their children today.

I heard your younger sister scream out a true bechi tamrurim, a bitter cry, unlike anything I've ever heard before. I'm certain that her tears ascended straight to the heavens. Yuval, your death defies time. You join a legacy of individuals, throughout Jewish history, who were willing to die for the values they stood for. I learned that your beloved great-grandfather was also killed fighting for Israel in the War of Independence.

You gave your life during the three weeks leading up to the destruction of the Beit haMikdash. There have been years in which I've felt so disconnected from the suffering of this time period. Today though, the emotions of destruction have returned.

I've realized that the best way we can continue what you've started is by living the values which you embodied. May we live and love indiscriminately in your honor. Thank you for reminding me of this invaluable lesson.

Yuval, you are deeply loved and you will be deeply missed.

At the funeral, the words *Baruch Dayan HaEmet*, Blessed is the True Judge, were countless repeated. I know that there is a grander plan; a Divine reason for Yuval's passing. Today though, the ambiguity of the Truth pains us deeply.

Being in Israel this past summer has been a powerful, eye-opening, and unpredictable journey. I arrived only two days before Eyal, Gilad, and Naftali were kidnapped and have spent the time since obsessively refreshing the liveblog of each day's ever-evolving escalation of events. As traumatic as it was to run into a shelter upon hearing a blaring siren, as emotional as it was to attend the funeral of a fallen soldier, as heart-breaking it was to attend the *shloshim* of the boys and remember the lives they could have lived, I have learned this summer that I stand best *with* Israel when I stand *in* Israel.

**I STAND BEST
WITH ISRAEL
WHEN I STAND
IN ISRAEL**

Michal Kupchik I'm sitting at Har Herzl. I've been here before; as part of a day *tiyul*, on *Yom HaZikaron*. I've walked beside these graves, and strived to connect to the magnitude of the sacrifices made on behalf of the land of Israel and its people. Today's excursion, though, feels completely different.

Today the pain of war is so fresh, so real. I just attended the funeral of Yuval Haiman, a twenty-one-year-old

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jackie Benayoun

Cancer: Getting Up Close and Personal

Emily Chase Doctors today are shifting toward treating disease in a personalized way: by looking at a patient's genes. This practice is allowing medical professionals and scientists to select a drug that is custom fit to the specific type of disease, specifically in the field of oncology.

A new study published in the *Pancreas* journal found evidence that assessing the route to cancer on a case-by-case basis might make more sense than basing a patient's cancer treatment on commonly disrupted genes and pathways. John McDonald, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta said, "treat[ing] each person by looking for the etiology of the disease in patients individually... have ramifications on how we might best optimize cancer treatment." This type of treatment rallies for individualism in medicine and zeroes-in on the root of the problem.

McDonald's team of scientists at the Georgia Institute of Technology showed the effectiveness of personalized treatment by isolating cancer tissues from a set of patients relative to adjacent normal pancreatic tissue. The study found that 287 genes displayed significant differences in expression in the cancers versus normal tissues. Twenty-two cellular pathways were enriched in cancer samples, with more than half related to the body's immune response. The researchers found that the molecular profile of each individual cancer patient was unique in terms of the most significantly disrupted genes and pathways.

"If you're dealing with a disease like cancer that can be arrived at by multiple pathways, it makes sense that you're not going to find that each patient has taken the same path," McDonald said. Although the researchers noticed that there were some genes that were disrupted in all or most of the patients examined, these genes were not among the most significantly disrupted in any individual patient. "By and large, there appears to be a lot of individuality in terms of the molecular basis of pancreatic cancer," said McDonald, who is also director of the Integrated Cancer Research Center and as the chief scientific officer of the Ovarian Cancer Institute.

Although the study size of McDonald's research was relatively small, it definitely highlights the validity of targeting the most important gene or pathway underlying a disease by pooling data from multiple patients. McDonald maintains that individual profiling is the preferred method for initiating treatment.

Individual profiling for cancer patients' allows scientists to identify and

attack cancer cells using biomarkers and then develop drug agents directed at a person's genetic mutations. These drugs attack cancer in distinct way; from cutting off a tumor's blood supply, to initiating apoptosis (cell death), to restarting the immune system. But because cancer is not caused by a single agent, it is complex and can take on many forms. Cancer can be caused by thousands of distinctive biological switches, creating a broad range of cancer types and allowing for differences even within one type of cancer. Personalized cancer treatment may be extremely beneficial, where each person's cancer is treated on an individual basis.

Traditionally, patients with the same stage and type of cancer have been given standard treatments. Yet these treatments worked for some patients, but not for others because of genetic difference in their tumors--so oncologists are turning to personalized treatment. And this is why oncologists are tuning to personalized treatment. Joan Scott, the deputy director of the Genetic and Public Policy Center of Washington D.C., stated, "Oncology is absolutely farther down this road of personalized medicine than other areas."

With personalized cancer treatment, the patient's tumor is biopsied and scanned for abnormal genes. Recently, treatments for particular gene mutations have become accessible. Patients can order the molecular testing of their tumors to determine their genetic profiles. After analyzing the genetic tests, doctors can make the prevention, screening, and treatment process for each patient more customized and effective, and minimize the side effects. Pathologist John Iafrate of Massachusetts General Hospital declared, "In the next few years, I think every major cancer center is going to work on this approach.

Some examples of personalized cancer treatment are targeted treatments and pharmacogenomics. Targeted treatments are directed to the exact genes and proteins of the cancer that allow for its growth and survival. Pharmacogenomics is involved in analyzing the relationship between a person's genes and how he/she responds to drugs, and in this are involved in dosage selection. For example, epidermal-growth-factor-receptor gene mutations can influence patient response to drug treatment. This is particularly important for cancer medications which can be either life threatening or ineffective if given at the wrong dosage.

Furthermore, a group in Vancouver studied personalized treatment



by sequencing an entire tumor, and comparing it to the genes of healthy cells. The patient, they discovered, had mutations in the *PTEN* gene, one of the key tumor suppressor genes, and extremely high expression of *RET*, which is involved in extracellular cell signaling. Because of the data they found, they moved him from the drugs he was taking to another drug, and afterwards the cancer successfully regressed.

Even with all the promising studies and data, there are major setbacks to personalized treatment. Genetic testing can be expensive (insurance plans often do not cover the cost) and lengthy. The cost of a molecular profiling analysis to transcribe the DNA sequences of exons — the parts of the genome that are translated into proteins — is about \$2,000 (exons account for about two percent of a cell's total DNA). While the cost has been reduced by half within the past five years, it is still burdensome. Moreover, scientists and doctors will have to shift their paradigm on how they use molecular profiling to treat cancer. For example, for any given individual patient there may be mutant genes or aberrant expression patterns that are vitally important for that person's cancer that aren't present in other patients' cancers. Additionally, only a small number of drugs can be chosen to fit particular mutations and cancer types as new cancer types—like ovarian and lung cancer—begin to be studied.

Clearly, we still do not know everything there is to know about cancer and how to treat it. But we are well on our way to understanding the unique genetic and molecular pathways that are corrupted in people with cancer. Thanks to personalized cancer treatment, scientists definitely have a great lead. It's time to face our fears and confront cancer, up close and personal.

Breaking the Mold

Yael Horvath It learns, remembers, solves problems, and chooses the healthiest item on the menu; and yet it doesn't have a brain. The slime mold, also known as the SpongeBob SquarePants—yellow *Physarum Polycephalum*, is a mold that is not actually a mold. It is an amoeba and exists as a single-celled organism that joins together with other cells to form a mass network-like super cell. Since scientists say that it has been around for at least over 600 million years, the slime mold has been used in countless laboratories to study the evolution of simple processes that organisms exhibited even before they developed brains. However, when the slime mold began to display a primitive form of intelligent behavior, scientists were forced to rethink intelligence in a pared back, holistic way. Scientist Chris Reid of the University of Sydney, who has conducted countless experiments on the slime mold, said that "slime molds are redefining what you need to have to qualify as intelligent."

Much of the slime mold's action was actually documented when an artist, Heather Barnett, received a petri dish of slime mold from her microbiologist friend with the sole instruction to "play with it." Along with a tip-off that slime mold favors oats over any kind of food, she turned to time-lapse photography in order to capture her observations.

Initially, she observed that after feeding on a pile of oats, the slime mold went off to explore new territories in different directions simultaneously. However, when it met itself, it recognized that it was there and retreated back, heading in new directions. Thus, she concluded, slime mold can map its territory; know itself, as if with seeming intention.

What looks like clump of fluorescent slime has actually provided the basis for numerous scientific studies and research papers. For example, a team at the Hokkaido University in Japan filled a maze with slime mold, planting two oats at separate locations in the maze. They found that the slime mold formed a connection between the food, retracting from empty areas, and establishing, time and time again, the shortest possible route between the oats. These researchers concluded that slime mold had a primitive form of intelligence.

Another study exposed the slime mold to blasts of cold air at a set of time intervals. Since the slime mold thrives in dark, damp, and humid environments, it naturally disliked the cold and slowed its own growth in response to the air blasts. After four repeated blasts of cold air, the researchers stopped the blasts. The slime mold, however, in anticipation of the next blast, slowed down its growth, despite the lack of cold air being blown onto it. Somehow, as if classically conditioned, it knew that it was time for the cold air; and thus, provided the scientists with the conclusion that the slime mold was



Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8
able to learn.

A third and truly fascinating experiment was performed in which the slime mold was placed on a railway map of the Tokyo transit system, with oats positioned at the different stations in major cities and suburbs. In just 26 hours, the mold fanned out in a branching pattern, forming a network between all of the different oats that almost identically simulated the existing train tracks that had been developed over a course of one hundred years by community dwellers, civil engineers, and urban planners. In just over a day, the slime mold had mapped the same efficient network between stations, forming along the quickest routes.

So the question is, how does this organism operate? Without a central nervous system, without a brain—how can it perform behaviors that we associate with brain function?

World over, teams of researchers are working to decode the slime mold's biological principles to uncover the origin of its intelligence. In pursuit of

Allison Tawil Ever since 2001, the year that the Human Genome Project was completed, personalized medicine has been a dream waiting to be turned into a reality. Personalized genomic medicine promises to do something that most drugs cannot do: instead of targeting a specific disease, these drugs are designed to target a specific disease-causing-mutation based on information found in a person's DNA.

Though not all diseases are caused by a genetic mutation, drugs that target genetic pathways can be helpful to thousands of individuals. One example of a personalized genomic drug is Kalydeco, prescribed for people diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a disease in which thick mucus surrounds the lungs and other organs, causing difficulty breathing and frequent infections in the lungs. The disease is autosomal recessive; meaning

The Future of Personalized Medicine

that a person is only affected if they have two copies of the gene causing CF. The disease is deadly in most cases and the average lifespan of an affected individual in the U.S. is only 37 years. CF affects around 30,000 people in the U.S., 70,000 worldwide, and has a higher frequency in the Jewish Ashkenazi population.

Cystic Fibrosis is caused by any one of many mutations in the CFTR gene that Kalydeco targets. A mutation in the CFTR gene causes limited chloride and sodium ions allowed to flow into a cell. This, in turn, causes thick, sticky mucus to develop in vital organs, which causes the defining symptoms of CF. Kalydeco targets the cause of the disease instead of merely targeting the symptoms, working to restore normal ion flow in cells, reverse mucus production, and thereby stop the coughing and frequent infections in the lungs. This is the reality of personalized genomic medicine—targeting a disease at its source is the most effective way of preventing further symptoms from occurring.

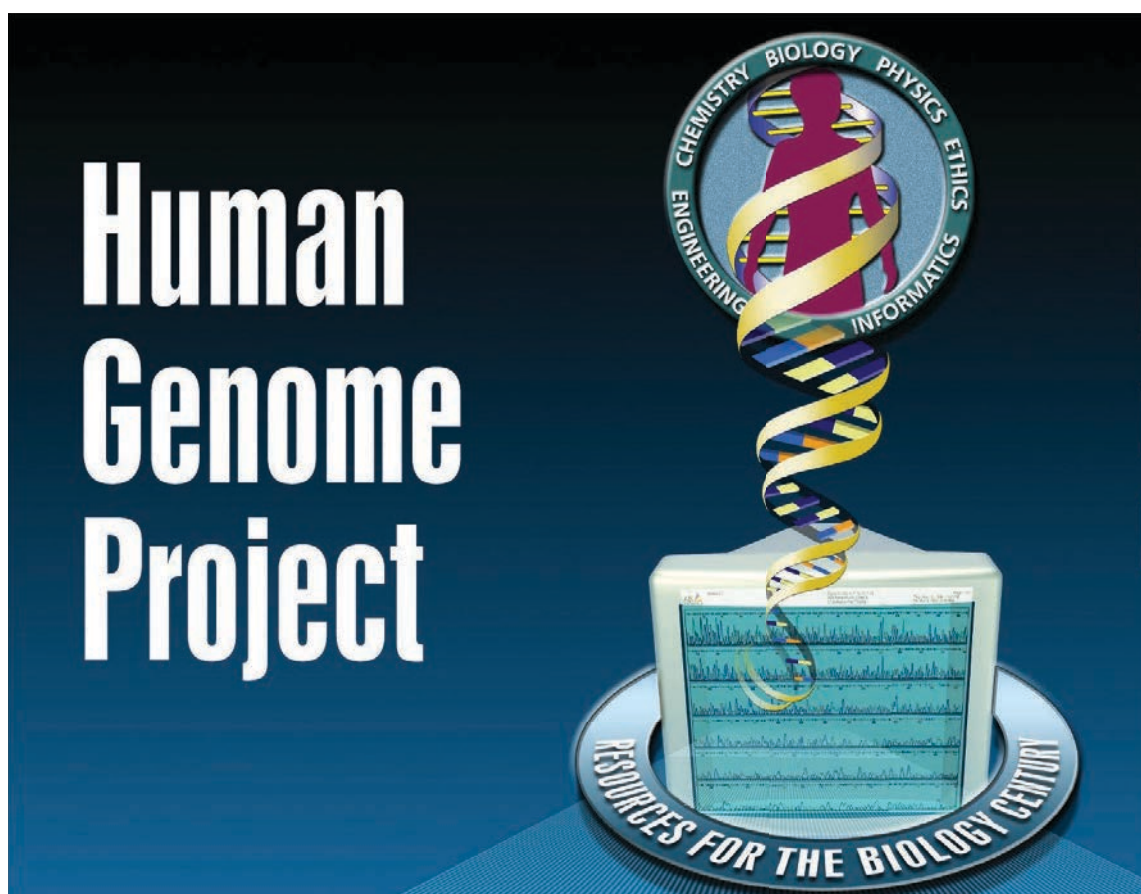
Kalydeco only works on specific mutations that cause CF. This amounts to around 2,000 patients under the drug's treatment. Kalydeco and drugs like it are mainly effective against “orphan diseases,”—those diseases based on a mutation that affects only a small number of people, or a small subset of people that have a specific mutation, like CF. But for people that fall within this category, the Kalydeco

drug is considered to be miraculous. A patient quoted in a recent *New York Times* article states, “I still pinch myself every day. I can take deep breaths. I can run without coughing...”

While the benefits of tailor-made drugs like Kalydeco are high, the costs are considerable, making them harder to market. Drugs like these cost more than \$300,000 a year, amounting to millions of dollars over a patient's lifespan. With these astronomical figures, scientists and consumers worry about the future. While few drugs like Kalydeco are currently on the market, this may change over the next few years. For example, there are talks of a personalized drug to treat hepatitis C, a disease that infects over 130 million people worldwide. The total treatment cost of that type of drug is almost unimaginable.

Personalized medicine will be medical care based on our very core, our unique genetic data. This will completely change how treatments are administered. Researchers are working toward a future where each of us will have the opportunity to get a blood test to have a complete analysis of the 20,000 coding-genes which is our personal genetic blueprint and will become a crucial piece of our medical record. It will tell your physician critical information, such as, what diseases are you likely to get? heart disease? colon cancer? arthritis? Alzheimer's? What should be done to help prevent those diseases? exercise? yearly colonoscopy? drugs? gene therapy? Which treatments will work for you, as an individual, and which will harm you?

Personalized medicine is the future of medicine, and if we want to make this dream into a reality, costs will be high. But before worrying about those details, it's important to acknowledge the tremendous strides made in the genetic and pharmaceutical fields that have brought us to where we are today, and to recognize how much we have yet to uncover.



Students Spend Summer Conducting Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Jackie Benayoun This summer, nine students from Yeshiva University—Jacqueline Benayoun, Adi Cohen, Hadasa Holzapfel, Shira Kaye, Esther Kazlow, Tamar Ariella Lunzer, Bracha Robinson, Natan Tracer and Liat Weinstock—participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The program serves as an advanced biomedical research curriculum that spans fields ranging from neuroscience to immunology to biochemistry. These students, along with 35 others from various colleges and universities, engaged in cutting edge scientific studies and received hands-on research experience in areas normally reserved for graduate-level work. The program is directed by Dr. Victoria Freedman, Einstein's associate dean for graduate programs in the biomedical sciences, and Dr. Barry Potvin, professor of biology at Yeshiva College and visiting professor in the cell biology department at Einstein.

The program sought to expose students to biomedical research in the hopes that they will one day pursue

a PhD or a joint M.D./Ph.D. degree. By providing students with on-campus housing and a stipend, participants were able to completely delve into their laboratory work while also spending time on the medical school campus.

For Stern Biology major and English Literature minor Shira Kaye, the program was both educational and eye-opening. Kaye worked in Dr. Wei-Li Liu's lab in the department of Anatomy and Structural Biology studying p53, the tumor-suppressor protein, which is mutated in about 50% of all cancers. According to Kaye, “It was fascinating to research unknown mechanisms and structures of proteins and genes that may be crucial to keeping our cells cancer-free.”

For Kaye, a Bergenfield, New Jersey native and aspiring Neurologist or Pediatrician, she believes that in addition to learning useful lab techniques, she has further developed “the thought-process that is crucial to the medical research field.” Her work on exploring whether p53 binds the transcription factor RNA Polymerase II, and working

to establish a structure of the p53/RNA Polymerase II complex, helped elucidate a crucial step in cell cycle regulation. “My favorite part of the program has been that there is so much more the scientific world has yet to learn, and recognizing that however small it may be, I am contributing to that process.”

Eight of the students on the program were awarded scholarships through the Roth Institute Scholars Program, funded by the Ernst and Hedwig Roth Institute of Biomedical Science Education at YU. Tamar Ariella Lunzer, a Stern student entering her junior year and majoring in Biology with a Psychology minor, was funded by the Stern Einstein Research Connection Program—a fund established by Stern alumnae at Einstein. This summer allowed Lunzer to gain a thorough appreciation for scientific research: she studied the effect of increased serum cholesterol levels on the pathogenesis of Chagas disease under Dr. Louis Weiss. Lunzer performed western blots and PCR as well as mouse models for her project.

The program was especially

fascinating for Lunzer because it exposed her to a new area of science and medicine—global health. “It was incredible to be part of a lab comprised of students and staff from different countries and continents studying a disease endemic in a different part of the world—South America. It was exciting knowing that any discoveries made would have a real and significant impact on what is becoming a global issue. In recent years Chagas disease has been spread through travel and immigration and accounts for thousands of deaths each year.”

Furthermore, spending a summer at a research-intensive institution was a source of pride for Lunzer and her fellow YU undergrads that served as “ambassadors” for YU, so to speak. Lunzer believes that the YU students left a respectable impression and represented Orthodox Jews decently to fellow students and staff. She is grateful for having had the opportunity to participate in such an impactful experience and to gain greater exposure to science research.

MEET THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Elana Kook



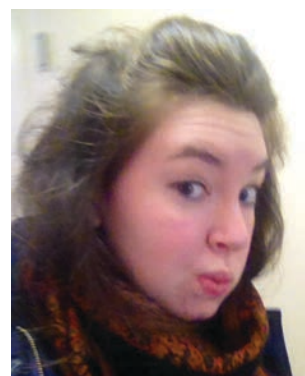
Elana Kook loves to read just about anything. But don't mistake Elana for any ordinary English major: this English major is secretly (or not so secretly anymore) an avid reader of just about any pop culture magazine, with a concentration in *People Magazine*. In regards to her previous writing experience, Elana has been writing for *The Observer* since her first semester on campus. Previously, Elana served as Managing Editor and editor of the Features section. Elana also tutors at the Beren Writing Center where she loves helping students develop their writing skills at any stage of the writing process. Elana is humbled to serve as Editor-in-Chief this year. She is eager to provide the student body with an honest perspective, as well as properly represent Yeshiva University to the broader Jewish Community. To stay up-to-date with everything Observer-related, please follow *The Observer* on Facebook and Twitter (@YUObserver).



Managing Editor Makena Owens

Makena Owens (SCW '16) is the Managing Editor of *The Observer* and a Media Studies major with double minors in Business and Graphic Design. She enjoys reading and subsequently scoffing at quick-fix articles trending on Twitter

about "How to Increase Your Media Reach in 5 Steps" and others that attempt to solve long-term problems. When reading these articles don't help her sleep at night, she watches TV and pays more attention to the commercials than the scheduled programming. And when that doesn't work, Makena scrolls through Instagram to view artful panoramas of the Pacific Northwest and finally finds herself at peace. She is excited to work for *The Observer* for her second year with the goal of producing a consistently high-quality paper that keeps the student body informed.



Copy Editor Sarah King

Sarah King is a Super-Senior at SCW. Hailing from Baltimore, MD, when she isn't working to finish her art/music double major, she can be found fencing, playing the harp, correcting her friends' papers, or getting embroiled in the usual hi-jinx. A lover of English and all things grammar, Sarah ensures the articles for the Observer are filled with good, clean, grammatical fun.



Layout Editor ST Schwartz

ST Schwartz (SCW '15) was born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Like the city she lives in, she hardly ever sleeps. Majoring in Studio Art ST plans on doing everything within her power to make the things you look at in this paper as pretty as possible. When ST is not working on *The Observer* she will probably be working on SCDS, or chilling out on the 8th floor of 215 Lex. ST enjoys the color orange, the muffin joke, ginger ale, puns, and the Oxford comma. She would also thank you for reading the printed version because coffee just tastes better while flipping through a newspaper (or so she's heard, ST doesn't read newspapers or drink coffee...)

Web Editor Sarah Varon

Sarah Varon (SYMS '15), sometimes known as Svaron, is a Marketing major, Management and Graphic Design minor. She puts her education and creativity to good use by creating flyers for floor parties, managing student club social media and recruiting students for Challah for Hunger. Sarah hails from the Pacific Northwest where the air is clean. She enjoys watching the sunset over Lake Washington and playing with her pups: Desi and Lucy. In her spare time she solves mystery novels a third of the way through and listen to Spotify on shuffle. This year she will serve as the Web Editor of *The Observer*.



Business Editor Talia Felman

Though originally born in Boston, Massachusetts, Talia Felman now lives in Teaneck, NJ. She is a junior at Stern College and plans on majoring in Biology. When not doing schoolwork, Talia can be found drawing, volunteering in the NICU at her local hospital, and spending time with her special needs campers. She is looking forward to being on *The Observer* staff, and she knows it will be an especially exciting year for the newspaper.

Photography Irit Greenboim

Hola Chiquitas! My name is Irit Greenboim and this is my second year serving as Photography Editor of *The Observer*. Hailing from San Diego, CA, I am majoring in studio art (Photography and Graphic Design), while simultaneously fulfilling pre-med requirements. I enjoy randomly changing the language in which I'm speaking, and have an odd obsession with sending GIFs through texts (let me know if you don't know what those are, I'll be more than happy to explain). I cannot wait for another amazing year with *The Observer*: say cheese!



Social Media Rivka Hia

Rivka Hia is a junior at Stern College majoring in English with a minor in Women's Studies. She hails from Queens, NY and enjoys exploring all the city has to offer. When not working on *The Observer*, Rivka can be found writing, following Jewish current events, asking existential questions, meeting new people, practicing her three foreign languages, or doing yoga at 103 degrees. Rivka is the Editor-in-Chief of the Quipster, Founding President of the YU Creative Writing Club, President of YU TEIQU, and a board member of the YU Women's Studies Society. You can follow her on Twitter @RivkaHia.



News Shalva Ginsparg

A native of sunny Florida, Shalva Ginsparg is majoring in English and Judaic Studies. This past summer, a journalism internship with the Franklin Center led her to Washington, D.C., where she covered political news stories for RedAlertPolitics. When not buried under a mountain of books in her favorite corner of the library, Shalva bakes pies, reads *The Wall Street Journal*, and Skypes her siblings. You can also find her in the Beren Writing Center, where she works as a tutor. As co-editor of the news section this year, Shalva can't wait to work with (and learn from!) the extraordinarily talented women on *The Observer* staff.



News Sara Olson

Sara Olson (SCW '15) is an English Creative Writing major from Baltimore, Maryland. Her dream job would be to be a librarian and an author of children's literature. She is really excited to join the talented *Observer* staff as co-editor of the news section, having written for both news and features during the past three semesters. In her spare time, Sara enjoys reading, writing fantasy, singing Broadway tunes, and watching Doctor Who.

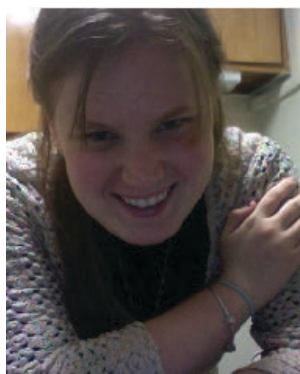


Features Shira Kaye

Shira Kaye, a junior from Bergenfield, New Jersey, is a Biology major with a minor in English. She is a pre-med student who hopes to one day specialize in the field of Neurology or Pediatrics. In addition to her passion for biology, she enjoys philosophy, literature, and acting. She is President of the Fiction Book Club on Campus, is an active member of the Stern College Dramatic Society, and in her free time, enjoys playing guitar.

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AND ALWAYS WRITE ON!



**Features
Talia Stern**

Talia is a senior at Stern majoring in Biology and most likely pursuing physical therapy. In the free time that she has, she loves watching random YouTube videos, writing songs (and pretending to play the piano), and spending time with friends and family (especially her two-year-old nephew). This is Talia's first year as an editor on *The Observer*, and she has been writing for the paper since her first year on campus. She's really excited for the upcoming semesters and is thankful for the opportunity to help *The Observer* succeed as the informative and important newspaper that it is. Write on!

**Arts & Culture
Abigail Bachrach**

Abigail is an avid freelancer who enjoys utilizing highfalutin millennial-appropriate argot, wearing the most outrageous shoes she can procure from shopping apps on her phone and compulsively reading the news from reputable sources and/or her Twitter feed. Abigail, who also goes by her Hebrew moniker Avigayil, is a semi Media Studies, mostly Journalism major with an International Relations minor and an additional academic passion for criminal law, ancient Jewish texts and Middle Eastern studies. She is most likely to be found clutching her coffee for dear life and thrift shopping somewhere vaguely pretentious in Brooklyn or at culturally stimulating events in NYC that she will delight in sharing with you as Arts and Cultures Editor for the Observer this year. Hit her up at her Twitter handle @AJBachrach or just email her so she can invite you along and not have to go places alone.



**Opinions
Renana Nerwin**

Renana, Stern '15, is a psychology major and a wannabe English major (but sadly, only an English minor). Though she grew up in Riverdale, NY, Renana considers herself a true out-of-towner and is in Stern on almost any given Shabbat. When not studying, you can find Renana doing psychology related volunteer work at nearby hospitals, shopping at Fairway, or hanging out at Coffee Bean with a good book. Renana is an avid reader of *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, and is excited to be part of *The Observer* as co-editor of the opinions section!

**Health Corner
Devi Braun**

Devi Braun is the Health Corner editor of *The Observer*. She is really excited to be a part of the newspaper as it is a vital part of the Stern community serving many purposes. She will be starting her second year at Stern and will be pursuing a major in Neuroscience Psychology. Last year Devi acted as a writer for the newspaper and hopes to become even more involved now that she is an editor. She has always had a passion for reading and writing and was thrilled to find out that she could put her hobbies to good use while in college. Devi realizes how important it is to keep every student in the know about what is going on around her, and will strive to do so.

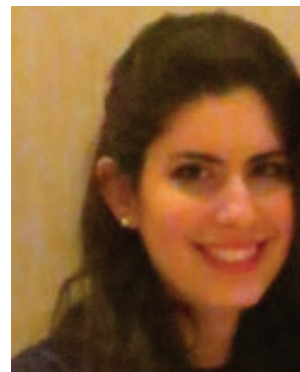


**Opinions
Maddie Zimilover**

Maddie Zimilover (née Tavin) is a senior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Biology. Coming to Stern from Memphis, Tennessee, she now resides in the beautiful Heights of Washington. Maddie tutors in the Writing Center and loves discussing opinions and viewpoints. Her interests include social justice, health policy, and iced lattes.

**Science & Technology
Jackie Benayoun**

Jackie is from Queens NY, and is a graduating Biochemistry major at Stern. Jackie spends her free time volunteering at the pediatric ED at Columbia, spending time with friends and family, and working at a local food pantry. She is excited to resume her position as Sci-Tech editor and has made it her personal mission to encourage the plentiful pre-health students at Stern to write for the paper.



THIS MONTH IN STERN...

September 2014

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 WTEN vs York College (NY) WSOC vs The King's College (NY) | 4 WVB vs College of Staten Island | 5 MSOC vs Fisher College (Mass.) WTEN vs Lehman College WSOC vs Fisher College (Mass.) | 6 Parshat Ki Teitzei: TAC/SOY Shabbaton with Dr. Pelcovitz |
| 7 WTEN vs Mount Saint Mary College (NY) | 8 WSOC vs Sarah Lawrence College | 9 | 10 WSOC vs John Jay College of Criminal Justice | 11 WTEN vs Purchase College | 12 | 13 Parshat Ki Tavo: Rabbi Yosef Blau |
| 14 MSOC vs The College at Old Westbury WVB vs Medgar Evers College WTEN vs The Sage Colleges | 15 WSOC vs St. Joseph's College - Brooklyn | 16 WVB vs The King's College (NY) | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech |
| 21 MSOC vs The Sage Colleges | 22 | 23 MSOC vs Western Connecticut State SUKKOS BREAK | 24 SUKKOS BREAK | 25 SUKKOS BREAK | 26 SUKKOS BREAK | 27 SUKKOS BREAK |
| 28 SUKKOS BREAK | 29 SUKKOS BREAK | 30 WVB vs College of New Rochelle WTEN vs Western Connecticut State SUKKOS BREAK | | | | |

Elana Kook and Chana Schechter
Camp Moshava Marathon



Makena Owens
Rattlesnake Ledge in Washington State



ST Schwartz and Rivka Apfel
New York Renaissance Fair



Sara Pool and Sima Fried
YU Dig in Israel



Raquel Miller and Chaya Apfel
Camp Maor



Michal Kupchick, Rochela Neiman, Sarah Stiefel, and Merav Gold
Kibbutz Shluchot; Mizrahi's Summer Internship Program



Michal Schechter, Lauren Wiess, and Shay-Kay Lis
Volcani Center, Israel



Rivka Hia and Meital Sapir
Army Base in Judea, Israel



WHERE WAS STERN THIS SUMMER?