

Israel Minister of Education Keynotes Commencement

The Honorable Limor Livnat, Israel Minister of Education, delivered the keynote address and received an honorary degree from President Norman Lamm at Yeshiva University's 71st Annual Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 23. The exercises took place at The Theater in Madison Square Garden.

Dr. Lamm also bestowed honorary degrees on Mr. Arthur Cohn, film producer; Dr. Bernadine Healy, physician and former president and CEO of the American Red Cross; Mr. Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Mr. Michael Jesselson, a philanthropist, communal leader, and businessman.

Minister Livnat has been a Member of Knesset (Israel's parliament) since 1992, and served as a member of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee, as well as the Labor and Social Affairs Committee. Upon becoming Minister of Education, she stated that she was committed to ensuring "that there is not

a single child in Israel who doesn't learn the basics of Jewish and Zionist knowledge and values."

At Commencement she highlighted the value of heritage that is unique to man and the particular value of Jewish heritage.

"We have a heritage. And this is the advantage of man over the other creatures of the world. Heritage is knowledge and heritage is values. In transmitting our heritage, we preserve the continuity of Jewish existence," she said.

"May our diploma on the wall serve as a constant reminder of who we are and who we must strive to be, as individuals and as a people."

Arthur Cohn, of Basel, Switzerland, is the only film producer in history to have won six Academy Awards. Included in his repertoire of recognized works are *The Sky Above, The Mud Below; The Garden of the Finzi Continis;* and *One Day in September*, a recounting of the tragic events of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany. Mr. Cohn has had retrospectives of his films presented at major film festivals around the globe



Israel Minister of Education Livnat is hooded at YU's 71st Annual Commencement Exercises.

Living History

Karen Bacon: Academic Role Model for Jewish Women



recalls. "I remember vividly wanting to go home."

It's hard to imagine this is the same person who would become a research scientist, raise three children, lead a respected women's college, and share a dinner table at the White House with the First Lady of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel.

But if Dr. Bacon was a bit naive in 1960, she was also strong and determined. "I knew my parents had sacrificed a lot, both financially and emotionally, to send me away to school," she says. "I couldn't see myself calling them, saying, 'I'm coming home.' So I toughed it out and, of course, it got better very rapidly."

Indeed. Four years later, the trembling teen from LA had morphed into the class valedictorian, a bride-to-be, and a budding scientist. And just 13 years later, she would return to her alma mater as dean, playing a central role in developing SCW as a prestigious women's college and serious *continued on p. 6*

What in the world am I doing here?" We've all found ourselves alone in strange places asking this very question. For Karen Bacon, it was her first day as a freshman at Stern College for Women in September 1960.

Dr. Bacon, who had never been away from home, arrived early from Los Angeles, and not a soul was there to greet her at the hotel that then served as the college's dorm. Only one other student had shown up.

"The two of us were hanging on to each other, very frightened of this big city," Karen

and he is the only foreign producer ever honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Dr. Bernadine Healy became president and chief executive officer of the American Red Cross in 1999. During her tenure, she led the organization's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and took a courageous stand by pressing the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to accept Israel's Magen David Adom into full membership. She retired in December 2001 and *continue on p. 3*

Schottenstein, Abraham Honors Programs' Students Mark Milestone

The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College celebrated a milestone on May 23 when its first nine students graduated at the YU Commencement ceremony.

The evening of May 22 represented another milestone as well when the students, having completed all 11 requirements for the Program and 108 credits in residency, presented their senior honors theses to newly appointed Program director Dr. Will Lee,

and a gathering of deans, faculty, friends, and family.

The senior honors thesis is the crowning achievement within the Honors Program and represents the most in-depth intellectual experience within Yeshiva College: a full year of research and writing under the guidance of one or more faculty mentors.

Each student immerses himself in a topic all year with a degree of development impossible to achieve within a single one-term course.

Two triple majors, many double majors, the Yeshiva College valedictorian, winners of speaking and writing contests, winners of 16 departmental and college awards, and many other achievements are the fruition of this rigorous and rewarding experience.

The S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women, founded in the fall of 1999, graduated 16 students in 2001/2002, including Shoshana Frankel Posy, *continued on p. 12, see box p. 4*

INSIDE



MOVING OUT

YU's 71st Annual Commencement season *pages 8-10*



MOVING ON

Seniors win prestigious scholarships *page 5*



MOVING UP

From EMT to NYPD to Einstein MD *page 13*

FACULTY NEWS

Moshe Anisfeld, PhD, professor of psychology at FGS, presented a paper, "No Compelling Evidence to Dispute Piaget's Timetable of the Development of Representational Imitation in Infancy," at an international conference on imitation in Royaumont Abbey, France.

Noyes Bartholomew, DMA, associate professor of music, had a composition accepted for performance during the concert series of the League of Composers/International Society for Contemporary Music. The performance of *Lament (for Two Children of Ben Luc)* marked the piece's world premiere.

Pearl Berger, MLS, dean, University libraries, took over as president of the 1,100-member Association of Jewish Libraries when it held its 37th annual convention in Denver in June. Previously, she held the post of vice president. Associate Professor of Speech and Drama Peninnah Schram gave a storytelling performance during the convention's Judaica Festival.

J. David Bleich, PhD, Herbert and Florence Tenzer Professor of Law and Ethics, CSL, spoke on "Physician Conscience Clauses," Conference on Religious Values and Legal Dilemmas in Bioethics, Fordham University School of Law; "Law and Morality in Judaism," Faculty of Law, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; "The Stem Cell Controversy from a Jewish Perspective," Berliner Studien zum Jüdischen Recht und Centrum Judaicum, Berlin; and "Pränataler Lebensschutz: Theologische, philosophische und verfassungsrechtliche Aspekte," Podiumsdiskussion Humboldt University, Berlin.

Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Joel and Maria Finkle Visiting Israeli Rosh Yeshiva, has been giving shiurim on the Internet on the Arutz-7 website, www.a7.org, since February. The shiurim are held every Sunday, 4-5 pm, and deal with the weekly Torah portion, Jewish events, and events in Israel. Rabbi Goldwicht has a following among regular listeners of Arutz-7 throughout the tristate area. Arutz-7 claims 100,000 monthly impressions on its homepage.

Robert J. Greenberg, JD, assistant professor of business law at SSSB, presented a paper, "Democracy and Capitalism: Are They Really Equal Opportunities Employers?," at the annual conference of the Pacific Southwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business, Palm Springs, CA. Dr. Greenberg also served as scholar-in-residence at The Desert Synagogue in Palm Springs, where he spoke on "Enron, Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Relationship Between the Individual and the Community as Reflected in Parshas Shekalim, Zachor, Parah, and HaChodesh."

Rabbi Joel A. Hochman, JD, SSSB assistant professor of accounting, taxation, and business law, delivered a talk to the Golden Age Club of the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills, NY, on "Chasing Your Dreams—It's Never Too Late."

Ira Jaskoll, MBA, SSSB associate dean, was one of the subjects in an article about the pros and cons of exercising during middle age, in a recent issue of *Fortune* magazine: "Is It Time to Hang up Your Spikes?" Dean Jaskoll won a bronze medal in 1999 at the Pan American Maccabiah Games playing on the US basketball team, and continues to play regularly.

President Norman Lamm, PhD, was one of "Three Distinguished Guests in Dialogue with Rabbi William Berkowitz," a series of live dialogues created by Rabbi Berkowitz with outstanding world Jewish leaders, renowned personalities, authorities, and scholars in the fields of public affairs, the Middle East, religion and philosophy, the humanities, science, literature and the arts. The evening, in April, was held at the Leo and Julia Forchheimer Auditorium at the Center for Jewish History, home of YU Museum.

Edith Lubetski, MLS, SCW head librarian, was honored with an Administrative Recognition plaque by SCW students at the End of Year Dessert and Awards Ceremony.

Meir Lubetski, PhD, adjunct associate professor, recently published *Saul Lieberman (1898-1983), Talmudic Scholar and Classicist*. The book includes a comprehensive bibliography about Saul Lieberman compiled by Elinor Grumet, reference librarian in SCW's Hedi Steinberg Library.

Alvin I. Schiff, Irving I. Stone Distinguished Professor of Jewish Education, AGS, lectured on "Response to September 11—A Judaic View," Cong. Anshe Shalom, Del Ray Beach, FL. He spoke on "Applying the Concept of *Gevurot* to Humankind and Nature" at the 80th birthday celebration of Yisrael Back, director emeritus, International Bible Contest, Jerusalem. He authored an essay in Hebrew, "Unity of Israel in the Bible and Talmud," Religious Zionism in Action, in honor of Dr. Zerah Warhaftig, Jerusalem, Mizrahi Hapoel Mizrahi World Organization.

Shmuel Schneider, PhD, associate professor of Hebrew, presented a lecture, "Shabbat in Modern Hebrew Literature," at the Baltimore Histadrut Ivrit of America "Hebrew Week" conference in June.

Ellen Schrecker, PhD, professor of history, was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Historians in recognition of the literary and scholarly distinction of her historical work.

Jeffrey S. Gurock, PhD, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History and academic assistant to the president, was awarded the Lee Max Friedman Medal for 2002 at the Biennial Scholars Conference of the American Jewish Historical Society. The award is in recognition of his distinguished service to the field and as associate editor of *American Jewish History* for more than 20 years.

PEOPLE

Julius Berman, RIETS chairman and YU board trustee, was elected chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the "Claims Conference"). The election took place shortly after the death of Rabbi Israel Miller, vice president emeritus and president of the Conference for the past 20 years (see p.3).

Sander Dulitz, assistant to the director of safety and security, was chosen and assigned as the official liaison to Community Planning Board 12, representing the offices of Council Member Miguel Martinez.

Jake Lieberman, director of food services, was invited to join the NYPD in a special tour as a "Commanding Officer for a Day," during which he was made police captain



for a day by Commissioner Ray Kelly. He was assigned to a housing development in the East New York section of Brooklyn. Lieberman (pictured left with Com. Kelly) serves as a liaison to the NYPD in Brooklyn.

Condolences to

Norman Adler, YC dean, on the loss of his brother, Michael.

Sue Brody, public relations coordinator, Philip and Rita Rosen Department of Communications and Public Affairs, AECOM, on the loss of her mother, Mildred Oppenheimer.

Leon H. Charney, YU alumnus, Guardian, and CSL board member, on the loss of his brother, Herbert.

Dale Hochstein, director of MIS at AECOM, on the loss of her father-in-law, Arnold Hochstein.

Leon Jolson, on the loss of his wife, Anya, both YU Guardians, with whom he established a scholarship at RIETS in memory of their daughter, Dorothy.

Philip Ress, director of human resources, on the untimely loss of his nephew, William Monroe Ress.

Hedy Shulman, director of media relations, CPA, on the loss of her mother, Esther Simon.

We Mourn

Samuel Borenstein, a Founder with his first wife, Blume, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine who, with his second wife, Lillian, was a YU Guardian.

Pedro Gonzalez, assistant director/project manager, facilities management. He had worked at YU since 1982.

Edward Levy, EdD, professor of music and chair of the music department at SCW. He was an accomplished composer whose pieces were performed in New York and Germany.

Charlotte K. Lindner, former director of the D. Samuel Gottesman Library at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She was chief cataloguer at Einstein, 1961-74, then assistant librarian. She became director in 1978 and retired in 1989.

Jean Nerken, a Guardian with her late husband, Albert.

Joseph Noble, YU alumnus, Jewish educator, and original secretary at Teacher's Institute.

Perez Posen, assistant professor emeritus of physics, who taught for many years at YC.

Martin Romerovski, a YU Guardian with his wife, Rose. He was a former member, SCW Board of Directors. He and his wife were also Fellows of RIETS and YUHS.

Herbert H. Schiff, chairman and chairman emeritus of the WSSW Board of Governors. A YU honorary trustee, he and his wife, Betty, are Benefactors of YU.

Congratulations

Anthony Beukas, PhD, professor of speech and drama, on the birth of grandson Sean Michael to Michael and Jennifer Beukas.

Stephen Lazar, EdD, AECOM assistant dean, and wife Marlene on the birth of grandson Charlie Jay Lazar Aarons to parents Bari and Phil.

Hedy Shulman, director of media relations, CPA, on the graduation of her son, Marc, from the clinical psychology doctoral program at FGS.

Jeffrey Socol, senior associate director, facilities management, and wife Robyn on the birth of third child Yitzchak Israel. Mazal tov also to grandparents Dr. Sheldon Socol, vice president for business affairs, and wife Ginger.

continued on p. 3

YU Today

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Rabbi Israel Miller, Champion of Jewish Causes, Dies



Rabbi Israel Miller

Rabbi Israel Miller, YU senior vice president emeritus and one of the nation's outstanding Jewish communal leaders who championed Jewish causes and advocated Jewish human rights around the globe, died in March in Jerusalem at age 83. Funeral services were held in Israel.

A graduate of Yeshiva College in 1938 and of RIETS in 1941, he was a high-ranking administrator at YU for more than 25

years. Rabbi Miller joined the University administration in 1968, was senior vice president of the University since 1979, and senior vice president emeritus since 1994. He was a member of the Board of Governors Wurzweiler School of Social Work and of the RIETS Board of Trustees.

"Rabbi Miller's portfolio was diverse and influential. During his long and illustrious career he served his people, his country, and his faith with distinction," said President Norman Lamm. "However, for most of his life, he was always devoted to his university which he served with wisdom and love."

Rabbi Miller's communal career was intertwined with that of YU and his association with the University spanned more than 60 years. After he earned his bachelor's degree and ordination, he taught applied rabbinics at RIETS and influenced countless students. He received a master's degree from Columbia University in 1949. Rabbi Miller was awarded an

honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from YU in 1967.

Rabbi Miller played a singular role in modern Jewish communal life. A gentle, soft-spoken man, he was received by the last six US presidents and negotiated with foreign governments on behalf of world Jewry with his trademark gentility and grace. He was president of almost every major Jewish organization, most recently serving as president since 1982 of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

His tireless energies helped achieve a landmark compensation agreement for the criminal theft that was part of the barbarity of the Holocaust. He was chairman of the prestigious Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the coordinating body of religious, secular, and Zionist groups in the US.

Rabbi Miller's special interest in Soviet Jewry found expression in the three years of his national leadership of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Earlier in his

career, in 1965, he led a delegation of the Rabbinical Council of America to the Soviet Union, where he was accorded the privilege of speaking from the pulpit in Moscow. This resulted in a front-page story and his being designated "Man in the News" in *The New York Times*, which dubbed him "Down-to-Earth Rabbi."

In addition, he held leading roles in many other organizations, including: founding president and honorary president of the American Zionist Federation; a founder of the Jewish Community Relations Council; chairman of the American Zionist Council; member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and executive of the World Zionist Organization; vice president of AIPAC; president of the Rabbinical Council of America; president of the Rabbinic Alumni of RIETS.

A native of Baltimore, MD, for more than 25 years Rabbi Miller provided insightful and compassionate guidance as spiritual leader of Kingsbridge Jewish Center in the Bronx, NY.

Rabbi Miller is survived by his wife, Ruth, and four children, Rabbi David (and Miriam) Miller, associate director of RIETS' Caroline and Joseph Gruss Institute in Jerusalem; Rabbi Michael (and Phyllis) Miller, executive vice-president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York; Deborah (and Norman) Kram of Brookline, MA, director of Maayan, a Jewish Women's Study Institute; Judith (and Jay) Kalish of Jerusalem, an administrator at Hebrew University; 19 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and his brother, David, and sister, Dorothy, who reside in Netanya, Israel.

His funeral in Israel, held at YU's Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem, and burial, in the YU section of the Eretz HaChayim cemetery near Beit Shemesh, was attended by some 1,000 mourners, including YC alumnus and US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, Israel's Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein, and Deputy Minister of Defense Rabbi Michael Melchior.

Israel Minister

continued from page 1

was appointed by President George W. Bush to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Malcolm I. Hoenlein has been at the helm of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations since 1986. As spokesperson of the American Jewish community, Mr. Hoenlein has represented the consensus of that constituency at the highest levels of American government and around the globe wherever Jewish interests are at stake. Also, he serves as adviser to many public officials and is frequently consulted on

public policy issues.

Michael Jesselson is president of Jesselson Capital Corporation, an investment firm, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University, the Board of Directors of the Yeshiva University Museum, and the Board of Overseers of Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

He is active in a wide range of Jewish philanthropic, cultural, and educational endeavors in the US and Israel, including as a director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, an organization he helped establish with Michael Steinhardt and other major philanthropists and Jewish communal leaders in 1998

for the purpose of developing new day schools throughout the US for all branches of Judaism.

Immediately following commencement on May 23, which honored graduates of YU's undergraduate schools and several graduate programs, separate hooding ceremonies were held for recipients of degrees from Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine held its 44th Annual Commencement, Thursday, June 6; Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law held its 24th Annual Commencement June 7.

(See commencement section, page 8-10.)



Dr. David Schnall, dean of Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, presents a Certificate of Achievement posthumously to Mr. Alan Hayman, father of Shoshana Greenbaum, who was murdered in the summer of 2001 in the Sbarro terror attack in Jerusalem. Ms. Greenbaum was in Israel to complete her coursework for the Azrieli Block Program master's degree.



Standing from left: YU Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Morry Weiss, Chairman Robert M. Beren, and YU Trustee Joseph Wilf. Seated with Dr. Lamm (from left), honorary degree recipients Michael Jesselson, Dr. Bernadine Healy, Minister Limor Livnat, Malcolm Hoenlein, and Arthur Cohn.

PEOPLE

continued from page 2

Rabbi Marc Spivak, coordinator of community programs through new media for MSDCS, and wife Debra on the birth of twins. Rabbi Spivak made the pages of *Jewish Week* when he acted as *mohel* (ritual circumciser) for the two boys and also for the son of his wife's brother and sister-in-law, Daniel Price and Lea Rosenfeld. The triple *brit milah* (circumcision) ceremony was held at Weisberg Commons.

Jeffrey S. Gurock, PhD, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History and academic assistant to the president, his wife Pamela, Dr. Jayne G. Beker, chairman of the board of Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and YU board member, and Harvey Beker, on the birth of their granddaughter, Audrey Sofia.

Dr. Richard Zerneck, director of athletics and physical education, and his wife, Barbara, on the birth of grandson Joseph Zerneck.

Board News

The following have been elected members of Yeshiva University boards:

- Board of Trustees, Yeshiva University: Fanya Gottesfeld-Heller, J. Ezra Merkin
- Board of Directors, Sy Syms School of Business: Michael C. Palitz
- Board of Directors, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law: Stephen Judlowe and Nathan Kacew
- National Board of the Canadian Friends of YU: Samuel Z. Eltes, chairman.

Schottenstein, Abraham Honors Programs' Students Mark Milestone

Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program Graduates

COMPLETED SPRING 2002:

Hillel Deutsch, "Subjects, Rebels, Citizens, Americans: The Progression from Complacency to Constitution." Faculty mentor: Dr. Ellen Schrecker, History

Yakov Fleischmann, "Defending the Law of the Excluded Middle." Faculty mentor: Dr. David Johnson, Philosophy

Avi Helfand, "The Judaic Social Contract: Talmudic Traditions, Modern Models, and Contemporary Conceptions." Faculty mentor: Dr. Shalom Carmy, Philosophy

Zvi Rosen, "The Boris Problem: Literary and Operatic Approaches to Boris Godunov." Faculty mentor: Dr. Noyes Bartholomew, Music

Elie Rosenblatt, "Yiddish Melodies in Swing: The Adaptability of Klezmer Music." Faculty mentor: Dr. Noyes Bartholomew, Music

Jonathan Spielman, "Parents and Their Adolescent Children: Transmission of Jewish Identity Patterns." Faculty mentor: Dr. Mervin Verbit, Sociology

Baruch Stein, "Spectroscopy of Atomic Chains with Tunneling Microscopy." Faculty mentor: Dr. Fredy Zypman, Physics

Eliyahu Stern, "Other Theologies: The Social Thought of Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik and Emmanuel Levinas." Faculty mentors: Dr. Ruth Bevan, David W. Petegorsky, Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Yaakov Elman, Jewish studies

Jacob Yunger, "Numerical Simulations of Wave Propagations in Disordered Systems." Faculty mentor: Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, Physics

SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION SUMMER 2002:

Philip Green, "The Effects of Angle Strain on Transition Metal Carbene Alkyne Benzannulation." Faculty mentor: Dr. Wayne Schnatter, Chemistry

Shlomo Koyfman, "Legal Exegesis in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Its Significance in Jewish Intellectual History." Faculty mentor: Dr. Moshe Bernstein, Jewish studies

Natan Krohn, "Abolitionist Movements in England in Relation to the French Revolution." Faculty mentors: Dr. Jeffrey Freedman, History, and Dr. Will Lee, English

Elliot Stern, "Revelation in Jewish Thought: An Analysis of Normative Approaches." Faculty mentor: Dr. Shalom Carmy, Philosophy

The S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program Graduates

COMPLETED SPRING 2002:

Nechama Mina Shoshani, "Freedom in Slavery in Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Slave*." Faculty mentor: Prof. Laurel Hatvary, English. Second reader: Dr. Carole Silver, English

COMPLETED JANUARY 2002:

Ayelet Pruzansky, "Tensions in the Argument from Religious Experience." Faculty mentor: Dr. David Shatz, Philosophy. Second reader, Dr. Charles Raffel, Philosophy

Meira Reinstein, "*Iyov Lefi Peshuto*: Rashbam's Commentary on Job." Faculty mentor: Dr. Mordechai Cohen, Jewish studies. Second reader: Prof. Naomi Grunhaus, Jewish studies.

Nina Taub, "The Shaping of American Values." Mentor: Dr. Ellen Schrecker, History. Second reader: Dr. Hadassah Kosak, History.

COMPLETED MAY 2002:

Ruth Ephron, "A Biopsychosocial Approach to Addiction." Faculty mentor: Dr. Joshua Bacon, Psychology. Second reader: Dr. Terry DiLorenzo, Psychology

Lisa Helprin, "The Convergence of the Legal and the Superlegal as it Relates to the Field of Advertising." Faculty mentor: Dr. Marcel Isaac Perlman, Psychology. Second reader: Dr. Charles Raffel, Philosophy.

Yael Horowitz, "Modernism in Architecture and Design: Success or Failure?" Faculty mentor: Prof. Susan Gardner, Art.

Michelle Humi, "Long Term Sequelae of Treatments of Pediatric Brain Tumors." Faculty mentor: Dr. Terry DiLorenzo, Psychology. Second reader: Dr. Joshua Bacon, Psychology.

Chava Kahn, "Prions: Protein Misfolding, Disease and Therapy." Faculty mentor: Dr. Chaya Rapp, Chemistry. Second reader, Dr. Harriet Zuckerbraun, Biology.

Tziporah (Lea) Kapustin, "On the Effect of Sin: A Study of the Personality of Kayin." Faculty mentor: Dr. Shalom Carmy, Jewish studies. Second reader: Dr. Mordechai Cohen, Jewish studies.

Bracha Kenigsberg, "Stem Cells: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy Coverage." Faculty mentor: Dr. Harvey Babich, Biology. Second reader: Dr. Brenda Loewy, Biology.

Adina Levine, "Signing On or Signing Off: How E-mail Communication is Harming Social Interaction." Faculty Mentor: Prof. Laurel Hatvary, English. Second reader: Dr. Carole Silver, English.

Shoshana Frankel Posy, "Navigating the Human Genome." Faculty mentor: Dr. Brenda Loewy, Biology. Second reader, Dr. Chaya Rapp, Chemistry.

Meira Russ, "The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Its Founding and Activities, April-December 1960." Faculty mentor: Dr. Ellen Schrecker, History. Second reader: Dr. Hadassah Kosak, History.

Yehudit Weinberger, "The Science of Cloning: Medical and Legal Ramifications." Faculty mentor: Dr. Harvey Babich, Biology. Second reader: Dr. Chaya Rapp, Chemistry.

Aliza Weinstein, "Tracing Failed Communication in Literature: Parents and Children." Faculty mentor: Dr. Carole Silver, English. Second reader: Prof. Laurel Hatvary, English.

Student Profiles

Joseph Sebeo Is Goldwater Recipient



YC sophomore Joseph Sebeo

Joseph Sebeo, a YC sophomore this year and native of Paris, France, won the prestigious Barry M.

Goldwater Scholarship. The son of an American father of Italian origin and an American mother who is a native of Russia, Mr. Sebeo grew up in France but is very much at home in New York City.

"I always planned to come to the US to pursue my post-secondary and graduate studies after graduating from high school and obtaining my French baccalaureate," Mr. Sebeo said.

Mr. Sebeo is not only very familiar with American culture, but throughout his formative years was immersed in multiculturalism. He was enrolled in an honors program in high school, an intensive curriculum requiring a six-month

research project, and his studies were in both English and French.

"The reason I chose to go to YU is that I wanted to broaden my knowledge of Jewish studies in addition to building a very strong science foundation for my future studies. I have learned a lot in terms of Hebrew language, Jewish philosophy and Jewish literature," he said.

A chemistry and biology major, Mr. Sebeo knew early on that he would pursue medicine. During the summer of 2001, after his freshman year, he did research at Montefiore Hospital through a fellowship from the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. His research involved the potential therapeutic

benefits of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) on target cells in Parkinson's Disease.

Certain of his career goals, Mr. Sebeo intends to pursue a MD/PhD track. "My particular interests are neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and acute neuronal death-like stroke as well as autoimmune diseases. My hope is that if appropriate therapeutic and preventive treatment can be rendered before the appearance of clinical symptoms, many people will be spared from developing these diseases."

"Joseph was the most outstanding student in my 'Principles of Biology' class during the 2000-2001 academic year," said Dr. Carl Feit, associate professor of biology. "The

work he did on the neuroprotective effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on dopaminergic neurons is on a level that I rarely see even in an upperclassman majoring in biology."

This summer Mr. Sebeo will be a Roth Scholar for undergraduate summer research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a research program for a select group of students.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established in 1986 honoring Senator Barry M. Goldwater and offers scholarships to outstanding American students who demonstrate interest in, and have potential for, careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

Francine Osorio Wins Diversity Award

Stern student Francine Osorio merged separate aspects of her life when she became one of 25 students nationwide to win the Most Promising Minority Students Award from the American Advertising Federation in February.

A graduating senior at Stern College for Women majoring in English communications,

she focused on advertising and took courses in marketing at Sy Syms School of Business. Three of her courses were taught by Dr. Deborah Cohn, assistant professor of marketing and faculty adviser to the American Advertising Federation's SSSB College chapter, who nominated Francine for the prestigious award.

"The process of applying

for the award definitely synthesized my classroom experiences at Stern and Sy Syms," said Francine.

It also united two other important components—her heritage as a Hispanic woman and as a Jew.

"My parents were both born in Colombia and emigrated to the US during their teens. They made sure my

brother and I spoke Spanish, and being able to converse in English, Spanish, and Hebrew has enabled me to relate to many more people."

Criteria for award nomination include membership in a minority group, academic achievement, and experience working in advertising and/or marketing. Francine worked for Verizon Wireless last summer where she conducted market research for a new Verizon program and helped launch it

through a direct marketing campaign.

The award ceremony was held at The Waldorf-Astoria in Manhattan. It was preceded by two days of workshops and a job fair sponsored by the American Advertising Federation and several major corporations.

"I felt it was really an honor to represent YU as a minority student. It's an area in which the school does not normally find representation," she said.

YC, SCW Seniors Earn Prestigious Scholarships

Shoshana Frankel Posy, a computational biology major and SCW co-lecturer, is the winner of a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship.

The prestigious scholarship is awarded annually to 81 graduates and provides an annual stipend of \$21,500 for five years. An additional \$2,500 for expenses and a travel budget for participation in conferences is also offered.

Ms. Frankel Posy will attend Columbia University in the fall, where she will begin an integrated program in biophysical studies – a combination of basic biological research, chemistry, and computer science.

She will earn a PhD when she completes the program and plans to be involved in genome analysis, either at the university level or in the private sector.

Yitz Brilliant, who graduated summa cum laude from

Yeshiva College, has been awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship – the most generous graduate scholarship in the US. He will receive \$50,000 a year for six years.

Fifty scholars were selected from a total of 675 applicants for the scholarship. They are the first cohort to have been selected for this magnanimous award.

To be eligible for the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship, a college senior has to be a resident of, be attending a college or university in, or plan to attend a graduate school in the greater Washington region (Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia).

A speech and drama major with a concentration in film, Mr. Brilliant was president and founder of the Filmmaking Club at YC.

In third grade he decided that his ambition was to be a



Shoshana Frankel Posy SCW '02, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship



Yitz Brilliant YC '02, Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship

filmmaker and in eighth grade he produced a gangster flick, "Vendetta."

At 14, he started his own business, Brilliant Productions, which he continues to run, shooting videos of bar/bat mitzvas and designing invitations.

An avid artist as well as a

passionate filmmaker, Mr. Brilliant anticipates a side-career as a graphic designer. Currently he is taking several undergraduate classes in film-

making at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He plans to live in Israel and produce Jewish historical feature films and documentaries.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Roth Institute Scholars for Undergraduate Summer Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine:

Brian Barr, Caryn Gamms, Julia Josovitz, Gary Lelonek, David Rosenbaum, Meryl Sava, Joseph Sebeo, Anna Sedlectcaia

Dr. Kanarfogel Invested as Ivry Professor of Jewish History



Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at Stern College for Women and a widely recognized authority on medieval Jewish history and rabbinic literature, was invested as the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History at a ceremony at Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall in March.

E. Billi Ivry, a member of the Board of Trustees of YU and secretary of the Board of Directors of SCW, endowed the professorial chair, the first for a full-time SCW faculty member. Previously, she en-

dowed SCW's Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies as well as the *beit midrash* and student center at its newest dormitory building.

Dr. Kanarfogel is the author of *Peering Through the Lattices: Mystical, Magical and Pietistic Dimensions in the Tosafist Period*, published by Wayne State University Press, for which he received this year's YC Alumni Association Samuel Belkin Literary Award. In 1992 he authored the National Jewish Book Award-winning *Jewish Education and Society in the High Middle Ages*, for which he also earned the

Belkin Literary Award, making him the only author thus far to receive that honor twice.

Dr. Kanarfogel has served as chairman of the Jewish studies department since 1984. He was appointed to the rank of full professor in 1996. Ms. Ivry, a University Benefactor, was elected to YU's Board of Trustees in 1987. That year, she was elected to the SCW Board. She has served on the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Board of Directors since 1985, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies.

SCW Students at National Science Conference

Three Stern College for Women students presented posters at the 223rd national meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in Orlando, FL, in April.

Seniors Rachel Nivasch, a chemistry major, and Bracha Kenigsberg, a biology major; and pre-engineering major (in a joint program with Columbia University) Shira Frankel, a junior, were winners of the annual SCW poster competition, coordinated by Dr. Harvey Babich, professor of biology, and Dr. Lea Blau, professor of chemistry and chair, division of natural sciences and mathematics at SCW.

The students depicted topics based on research they participated in during last summer.

Ms. Nivasch, who last summer worked at The Weizmann Institute in Israel, modeled the protein interferon alpha receptor 2. Ms. Kenigsberg, who did research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, analyzed immune responses to recombinant BCG expressing a human tumor associated antigen. Ms. Frankel investigated the kinetics and reaction mechanism

in nickel oxide reduction by hydrogen at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Additionally, senior Elena Sedletscaia, a bio-chem major, and junior Anna Sedletscaia, a biology major, contributed posters, though they did not attend the conference. However, highlights of their work, along with those of the conference attendees, were included in a compendium of abstracts published by the ACS.

Dr. Blau also presented a poster at the ACS meeting, on "Twenty Years of Bonding: The Chemistry Club and the ACS." Dr. Blau serves as adviser of the SCW chemistry club. The poster illustrated its activities and the attendance over the years of students at ACS national meetings. During the April gathering, the club was recognized with a plaque for commendable achievement.

At the conference, the students attended lectures by top scientists and were able to meet and see how other undergraduates work. Also, they had the opportunity to explain their work to professionals interested in their fields of work.

Karen Bacon*continued from page 1*

place of Jewish study.

Dr. Bacon is now in her 25th year as leader of Stern College—a remarkable record of longevity, considering that the average tenure of an academic dean in the United States is less than six years. More important, she has become, in the words of YU President Norman Lamm, “a role model for observant women and women in general.”

Behind every great woman

It is often said that behind every great man is a great woman. Then, what is behind a great woman? A great mother, if Karen Bacon is any example.

Dr. Bacon was born in Brooklyn, the second of three children of Morris and Esther Kermaier. When she was still a toddler, her parents moved to a small town in California and then to Los Angeles, where Morris, a pharmacist, set up his own shop. Esther was often at his side, somehow also finding time to run an observant household and contribute to the community. “My mother was an inspiration,” says Dr. Bacon. “She took on enormous responsibility. It was quite an education for me.”

Since pharmaceuticals were the family trade, discussions at the dinner table frequently centered on science, a subject that Dr. Bacon grew to love. A top student, she could have attended almost any women’s college, yet she was drawn to Stern because of its commitment to Torah Umadda.

Which brought her to that terrifying day in the Big Bad Apple. But it wasn’t so terrible after all. Later that day, Dr. Bacon was invited uptown for dinner with her older brother,

a student at Yeshiva College. “He had a friend who sat down to eat with us,” she says, “and that gentleman became my husband.”

Marriage would have to wait awhile, however. For the next four years, Dr. Bacon concentrated on her studies, majoring in biology. It was then that she got a taste of big-time research, participating in a faculty project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Advanced study in science was the next logical step. “I really didn’t plan ahead,” she admits. “But it wasn’t odd to me as a woman to have a career because I had seen my mother working all those years. The faculty believed in me and assumed that I was going to apply to graduate school. So all the pieces fit into place.”

Attending Stern “was the best decision I ever made in my life,” she reflects. “It reinforced my values. It gave depth to my own Jewish experience. It gave me a strong intellectual foundation. And it connected me to a network of people that is absolutely astounding.”

A marriage of equals

Dr. Bacon married straight out of college, yet not for a moment did her marriage hamper her career. “My husband has always been very egalitarian and very supportive of my career,” she says.

“We’ve done everything together.” In fact, they applied to the same graduate schools and jointly decided on attending UCLA because it suited both of them academically. He studied clinical psychology while she studied microbiology. Toward the end of their stay in Los Angeles they started a family.

Another shared decision brought them both to jobs at the University of Indiana in

the early 1970s. Life was good in the Midwest, but New York beckoned with its rich Jewish culture and its career opportunities.

So after three years in Indiana, the Bacons moved once again, this time with three children in tow. He took a position with the Bronx VA Medical Center, she with Yeshiva University, and both have been with the same institutions ever since.

Stern’s new dean

In 1977, after two years as a biology instructor at Yeshiva College, Dr. Bacon was invited to join a search committee for Stern’s next dean. Soon after, she was asked to take the post herself.

Dr. Bacon inherited a college that was very different from the one she had attended. There was a new academic building, a new dormitory, and twice as many enrollees.

Also, the atmosphere on campus had greatly relaxed. “Back in my day, the dormitory was heavily regulated, and you had to be in by ten or you would be locked out,” says the dean.

“Somehow this was supposed to be for our safety.” Dr. Bacon herself missed the curfew once, because of a wedding, and had to spend the night in a seedy hotel. “I pushed a dresser in front of the door because I was convinced someone was going to come in and decapitate me,” she says with a laugh.

The curriculum had also grown in her absence, but it still placed too little emphasis on Jewish studies, in Dr. Bacon’s view. “Stern College was created to extend the concept of Torah Umadda to women’s education,” she says.

“That’s our contribution to the constellation of colleges in

the US. But the Torah curriculum wasn’t the strongest part of the school; it didn’t challenge the students sufficiently. To me, that was in urgent need of remedy.”

In the years that followed, Dr. Bacon worked to strengthen existing courses in Jewish studies, add new ones, and hire more scholars in the field. Students were also encouraged to study in Israel.

Empowering women

Judging by the College’s steadily increasing enrollment, currently at 1,000 with an additional 400 women at Sy Syms School of Business, Stern’s mission to meld the sacred and the secular is working. According to the dean, students recognize that a Stern education enables them to follow an observant lifestyle, raise families, and enter the workforce.

A recent survey, targeting the Class of 1990, revealed that virtually all Stern graduates have jobs—in law, medicine, social work, teaching, physical therapy, and so on—and 85 percent of them hold a graduate degree in one field or another.

Not surprisingly, the quest to “have it all” is stressful. “Everybody talks about it now, not just observant women,” Dr. Bacon acknowledges. “Observant women carry this load especially because the observant lifestyle puts so much emphasis on family and tradition and community service. It’s an enormous amount to put on a plate.

“I believe they are educated for it. I just hope they have the stamina and the emotional strength to pull it off. On the other hand, when it is done well, and you find some kind of balance in your life, it is a life of true fulfillment and contribution to society.”

Although Stern’s approach to women’s education is not exactly in tune with mainstream feminism, Dr. Bacon believes it is no less empowering. “There are a lot of women’s issues covered in our courses in Jewish studies as well as in general studies, but we don’t put a label on it,” she says. “This place is about women understanding who they are, where they are going, and helping them to get there.”

Consciousness raising

It has been decades now since Dr. Bacon has worked in a laboratory, which she misses. “But I miss not being in the classroom probably even more,” she says. While she loves running Stern, she admits she could easily forgo the politicking that necessarily comes with the job.

Still, she adds, “I can’t imagine working elsewhere. That isn’t to say I can’t imagine what I could do when I retire—I could come up with a lot of interesting things, but right now, this is my life.”

(That and her family, of course, who have close ties to Yeshiva, too. All three of her children, as well as a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law, have attended one of YU’s schools.)

Looking ahead, Dr. Bacon plans to focus more on development activities at the School. “No university can finance itself with student tuition alone,” she says.

“And for me, a major goal is to raise consciousness among alumnae, as well as people generally, that women’s education is still important, no matter what opportunities are out there, and that the Torah Umadda curriculum is absolutely essential to the continuity of the Jewish people. I believe that with my heart and soul.”



When Muslim-Jewish Relations Flourished

Despite daily headlines that depict Muslims and Jews living in colliding worlds, there have been times in history when those worlds coexisted and even contributed to one another intellectually.

Such was the case during the early Middle Ages, when a vibrant Judeo-Arabic tradition of learning produced flourishing cultural contacts, according to Dr. Mordechai Z. Cohen, associate professor of Bible at Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, and Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies.

During the spring semester, Dr. Cohen was on leave from YU to be a fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania. He was one of 15 scholars researching medieval Jewish biblical interpretation in its Muslim and Christian cultural contexts.



Dr. Mordechai Z. Cohen, associate professor of Bible

Painting the Jewish tradition of biblical interpretation in broad strokes, Dr. Cohen explains that, "In the tenth century, Sa'adia Gaon pioneered a method that culminated in the twelfth century in the works of Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides."

He explained that authors in that tradition, which came to be known as the Sephardic School, were well versed in

Arabic philosophy, linguistics, and poetry.

The 11th and 12th centuries, Cohen adds, "also witnessed the flowering of an exegetical school in northern France in the work of Rashi and his grandson, Rashbam."

These authors, who became popular in the Ashkenazic tradition, interacted with the surrounding Christian culture and engaged in debates with their neighbors over the true meaning of Scripture.

In an earlier phase of Dr. Cohen's research, he focused on the former school and showed that Jewish scholars used Arabic methods of literary analysis to enrich their understanding of Scripture.

He outlined his thesis in an article, "The Best of Poetry: Literary Approaches to the Bible in the Spanish *Peshat* Tradition," that appeared in *The Torah U-Madda Journal*, (Vol. 6, 1995-6), a Yeshiva University

publication.

Now well into the next phase of his research, he is studying how the divergent Jewish traditions merged in the 13th century. David Kimhi and Nahmanides, two leading interpreters who represent this next stage of the tradition, were proud inheritors of the Sephardic heritage, but were also open to the intellectual currents of the northern French school.

In addition, they lived in Christian, rather than Muslim lands, which gave them an outlook different than that of predecessors such as Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides.

"My research has given me greater insight into how the biblical interpreters whose commentaries appear in the *Miqra'ot Gedolot* [Hebrew traditional edition of the Bible with Medieval rabbinic commentaries] and who have been hal- lowed by Jewish tradition,

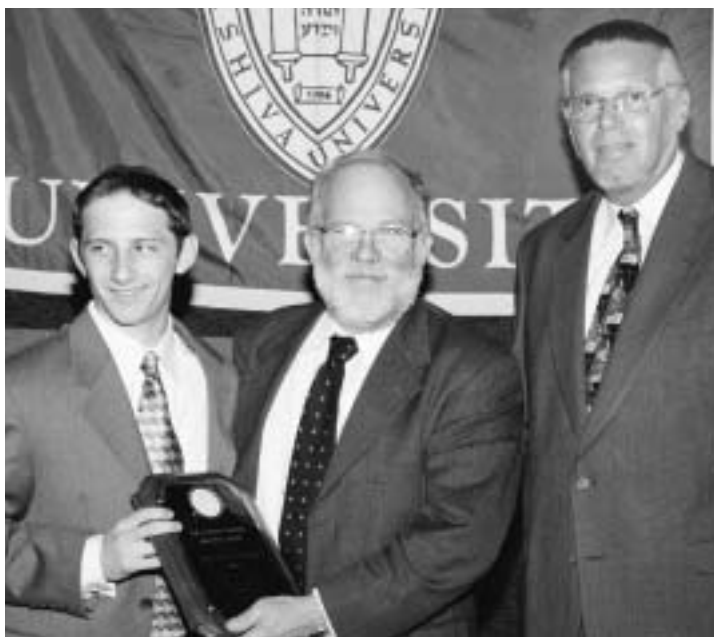
interacted with one another and the cultures around them.

"This subject plays a large role in my most popular courses at YU, and I find that my students are eager to gain a new appreciation for the Rishonim, the classical commentators they have studied since grade school, by viewing them within their cultural contexts."

An alumnus of Yeshiva College, Revel, and RIETS, Cohen began teaching at YU in 1988 and was chosen by YC students to receive the 1995 Outstanding Professor of the Year award.

Still a popular teacher, he says that in his classes he aims to make Bible "real and relevant," but that "my success as a teacher is a reflection of my students, who are truly motivated. My job is to properly guide them to develop new skills and explore new avenues of thought."

Scholar-Athlete Carries on Family Tradition



Yonatan Ellman with YC's Dean Norman Adler and University Dean of Students David Hember

Yonatan Ellman, recipient of the Norman Palefski Memorial Award to the Most Outstanding Male Graduating Scholar-Athlete, comes from a family of wrestlers.

The finance major from Atlanta began wrestling while a student at Yeshiva High School of Atlanta where his father, George Ellman, was assistant wrestling coach. At YU, Yonatan was a member of the wrestling team for three years—serving two years as captain—and was guided by his uncle, Neil Ellman, YU's head wrestling coach. Currently, Yonatan coaches the wrestling team at Torah Academy of Bergen County and he previously coached MSTAs team.

In addition to the Palefski Memorial Award, he received the Coach's Award in Wrestling and, on the academic front, the Award for Excellence in Judaic Studies from the Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program. Yonatan intends to pursue a career in finance or corporate management but would like to continue coaching and competing. He said, "One of the most important lessons I learned from wrestling is that you can achieve anything if you really push yourself."

Wall Street Legends Come to Life in New Syms Course

The Dr. Henry Kaufman Chair in Business and Financial History

Personalities such as Goldman Sachs founder Marcus Goldman, financier Bernard Baruch, and economist Edwin Robert Seligman may be key players in the history of business and finance.

But what can they pass on to the next generation of financial leaders? For a student in Sy Syms School of Business, plenty.

This spring semester, Sy Syms School of Business offered its first course under the aegis of the Dr. Henry Kaufman Chair in Business and Financial History. The course, "Historical Development of Modern Finance," examined the historical development of financial institutions and markets from the Middle Ages to the present.

Special focus was given to key Jewish individuals and financial institutions such as Bernard Baruch, Alex Brown, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Loeb, Rothschild, Schiff and Warburg.

Dr. Kaufman's experience and reputation on Wall Street for accurate economic and financial analysis have made him one of the most sought-after consultants in the industry. He has served as chief economist of Salomon Brothers, and is president of Henry Kaufman & Company.



Dr. Henry Kaufman, famed economist and financial analyst

"Dr. Kaufman's gift is especially significant because of his stature and distinguished career in the economic and financial community," said Dr. Charles Snow, Sy Syms School dean.

"By enabling us to offer business and financial history courses, the Kaufman Chair will broaden the knowledge and perspective of our students, and add a new dimension to all our business concentrations, including accounting, finance, management information systems, and marketing."

The course was taught by Dr. Joseph Tovey, a former petroleum industry analyst for several prominent Wall Street firms, a planner for Mobil Oil Corporation, and a tax specialist with Lybrand, Ross. Dr.

Tovey received a PhD from NYU graduate school of business and an MBA in taxation.

"When we were putting the course together, we looked for someone who possessed three main qualifications: academic credentials, knowledge of the historical conditions of the various institutions and the ability to relate them to contributions by Jewish institutions and individuals, and also someone who had practical experience in finance," explained Dean Snow.

"Dr. Tovey fits the description because he has an academic background, knowledge of secular and Jewish contributions to the world of business and finance, and thirty-five years of practical experience."

The course featured presentations by several business leaders, including Arthur Sheer, president of Sheer Asset Management, Inc., who spoke on asset management, and Morris Feder, president of Worldwide Cargo, Inc., who discussed how the evolution of the financial world was aided by the railroad and shipping industry.

Dean Snow said the addition of speakers in the course offered a new perspective on various aspects of business and how their experiences relate to financial history.

HIGHLIGHTS OF



Yeshiva University Valedictorians L-R: David Nachbar, Adam Rapp, Danielle Harris, Yoel Samuel, Shoshana Frankel, Hoorbod Delshadfar, Rachele Weinstein, Michael Helfand, Sarit Zauderer, Jonathan Meisels

Yeshiva College



Stern College for Women



Sy Syms School of Business

Undergrad Triplets



Yeshiva University sweep: The Feldman family of Toronto celebrates the graduation of Dov (center) from Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business. Brothers Ari (left) and Josh (right) are also alumni of Sy Syms, and their father, Eliot, is an alumnus of Yeshiva College and YU's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Ann Feldman is an alumna of YU's Stern College for Women.

Rosman triplets: L-R: Tzachi, YC; Racheli, SCW; and Eli Rosman, YC

COMMENCEMENT 2002

Albert Einstein College of Medicine



President Norman Lamm; Honorable Adolfo Carrion, Bronx Boro President; Dr. Dominick Purpura, Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean Dr. Renee Moadel, AECOM '96 hooding her sister, Dr. Nina Moadel

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law



Elena Mahgerefteh

Wurzweiler School of Social Work



Darren Skinner, PhD, and daughter

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology



Dr. Fred Foley hooding Jodie Ambrosino and her daughter

Profiles in Excellence



Michael Helfand—Yeshiva College

With an overall GPA of 3.99 and numerous Yeshiva College awards under his belt, Michael (Avi) Helfand obviously enjoys intellectual challenges. This year's YC valedictorian had earned the required number of credits to graduate last year, but stayed on to complete the College's prestigious Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program.

A triple major in history, political science, and philosophy who won graduation awards in all three fields, this high-achieving senior simultaneously committed himself to Talmudic study in Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of

Talmudic Studies. Regularly burning oil far past midnight continues to pay off: he was accepted to study towards a PhD in political science at Yale's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Michael, president of the YC History Club and editor in his junior year of its journal, *Chronos*, plans to become an academic when he completes his studies. He also has an eye on pursuing *semikhah* (ordination) at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. "Either I'll teach in a college when I'm done with grad school, or I'll panhandle," he jokes. We have a feeling it'll be the former.

Osayame Osemwegie—Wurzweiler School of Social Work

Osayame Osemwegie, a Nigerian student at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, received the National Association of Social Workers Award at Commencement this year. Ms. Osemwegie practiced as an attorney in Lagos before she came to New York in 1991. Here she worked as an elementary school teacher in the public school system, but her desire to help her students with problems they encountered at home pushed her into social work. "I love helping people—sometimes to my own detriment!" she says.

She has been working for the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) for

the past eight years, most recently as a supervisor in pre-placement services at The Children's Center in Manhattan.

Strong interactive skills have helped Ms. Osemwegie get through to the many troubled youngsters she has worked with in her field placement at ACS's Division of Foster Care and Preventive Services in Brooklyn.

Studying social work has given Ms. Osemwegie a broader professional context in which to apply her skills. "I wanted to get my MSW so that I could serve my clients better. It helps to put a name to what I have been doing," she says.



Adina Levine—Stern College for Women

Ms. Levine, 19, is on the brink of deciding on a career, and she has many possibilities. During her three years at SCW, the journalism major and American studies minor heartily involved herself in two extracurricular activities that have guided her choices.

Ms. Levine worked for *The Observer*, SCW's student newspaper, serving as editor-in-chief during her senior year. She also established the Mock Trial Club at the College, which participated in tournaments with other universities. "These activities incorporated my two passions in life—to work as a journalist and to become a lawyer," she says. For now, she has decided to pursue law. Ms. Levine has been accepted to an

impressive array of institutions including YU's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Harvard, Columbia, and New York University.

She may, however, take some time off to study in YU's Graduate Program for Women in Advanced Talmudic Studies, or finish the BA/MA program she is currently enrolled in at Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. She also taught a course at the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County where she attended high school. "I truly feel that Stern College for Women has prepared me to face the challenges of choosing a career through its classroom education and extracurricular offerings," she says.

Dee Dee Weberman—Sy Syms School of Business

Dee Dee Weberman is well on her way to reaching her career goals. The Sy Syms School of Business finance major had already secured a job after graduation early in the semester, as an operations analyst at Sempra Energy Trading in Stamford, CT.

For Dee Dee, college has always been about equipping herself for a career in the real world of finance. She was president of the Max Stern Investment Club, where participating students invest in a portfolio similar to a mutual fund, which gave her practical research experience.

She has interned every summer, building her

confidence and gaining practical experience.

Her last internship, at Sony, resulted in her staying on and being promoted to lead a small accounting division. She spent the past year and a half commuting between her 20-hour-a-week job and classes on the Midtown Campus. Besides having guts and energy, Dee Dee says it helps to be "organized and responsible, and to go above what is expected of you.

"Then you are given added responsibilities," she says, "and that's what makes the internship worthwhile."



Putting Terrorism Under the Microscope



Dr. Veena Thadani, assistant professor of political science

A deadly mix of politics, violence, and quests for power formed the basis of “The Politics of Terrorism,” a new course at Yeshiva College offered by the political science department this spring.

Taught by Dr. Veena Thadani, assistant professor at YC, the course explored terrorism through different historical and political contexts, tracing its changes throughout the ages from early religious and political roots to modern apocalyptic expressions.

The course was a direct response to the world-changing events of September 11, suggested by Dr. Ruth Bevan, David W. Petegorsky Professor of Political Science. Dr. Thadani, whose academic background is in international politics, noted that the course did not focus directly on Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, but looked at the changing phenomenon of terrorism throughout the world.

“The course examined how terrorism has changed depending on where, when, for what purpose, and with what strategy it has occurred,” said Dr. Thadani.

“The study of terrorism is a historical, political, and sociological interdisciplinary analysis of dissenting oppositional groups striving for some political objective. Since terrorist groups have political objectives, it is therefore important to study them to understand what their goals are and why they choose terrorism as a means to promote those goals.”

Old and new expressions of terrorism used throughout the world were discussed, including state-sponsored terrorism, millenarian (relating to the

coming of a new millennium) and apocalyptic terrorism, cyberterrorism, narcoterrorism (involving narcotics and criminal gangs), and terrorism by fringe groups such as animal welfare, ecological, and environmental policy advocates.

The class was broken up into teams and assigned a particular terrorist group from different regions of the world, which students presented to the class. Terrorist groups included Aum Shinrikyo in Japan, Shining Path in Peru, Buddhist groups in the China and Tibet region, Hezbollah and Hamas in the Middle East, Mau Mau in Africa, and Red Army Faction in Europe.

Student reaction to the class was extremely positive. “Terrorism is one of the major issues that shape the globe in the twenty-first century,” said Hillel Deutsch, this spring a YC senior and political science major.

“It is a threat to life in Israel, and is becoming a factor of American life. If we don’t know the cause, purpose, and methods of terrorism, we will not know how to stop it.”

Oren Goldhaber, a junior political science major, agreed. “It is important for everyone to understand the history and geopolitics of terrorism.”

One of the key changes in terrorism, Dr. Thadani pointed out, is that it is no longer considered only a domestic threat. “There is no longer just one group dissenting, provoking, and attacking its own government,” she said. “The internationalization of terrorist groups has now made terrorism a global issue.”

Students Mobilize for Israel

Some 2,400 students from YU’s undergraduate schools and affiliated high schools participated in the April 15 rally in Washington, DC, to show their support for Israel.

Fifty-three buses organized by students transported faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and family members. They departed for the nation’s capital from the Wilf and Midtown Campuses in the early morning.

En route, faculty and students gave shiurim appropriate to the mood of the day to help support participants’ sense of purpose.

President and Mrs. Lamm were among the bus contingent. Dr. Lamm said the day was “an awe-inspiring event, made even more so by the physically demanding nature of the day. Our students were magnificent in their industry, dedication, and sense of usefulness to all people at the rally. They are an inspiration and source of enormous pride for Yeshiva University.”

YC senior Reuven Brand, an organizer of Operation Torah Shield II, a student mission to Israel during intercession to show solidarity with Israel, was the final speaker at the rally, which had an estimated crowd of 800,000 from around the country.

YU’s participation was reported by local and national TV and print news, including CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, WPIX, NY1, and the Associated Press. President Lamm and seniors Michael Davis and Shmuli Singer were interviewed. All

the major broadcast news websites carried front-page stories citing YU’s participation in the rally.

At the rally, more than 100

puses and matched dollar-for-dollar by Student Organization of Yeshiva and the Stern College Torah Activities Council (for a total gift of



Reuven Brand YC '02, addressed the record gathering in Washington, DC April 15.

students carried large donation buckets, each bearing a photo and story of an Israeli citizen killed by terrorists in recent attacks. They collected more than \$35,000 for the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, which distributes funds and services to victims of terrorism in Israel.

This collection was in addition to the recent \$5,000 raised by students on YU cam-

\$10,000). Ten families of victims of terrorism in Israel, chosen by the students, each received \$1,000 for Passover.

An additional \$9,000 was raised by students at a *tehillim* (psalms) rally held in Manhattan’s Financial District a week after the Washington rally, bringing the total raised by students to \$54,000, which they also donated to the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund.

A group of YU students launched a nationwide newspaper project called “Kol Haneshama” (“Every Soul,” Psalm 150) to memorialize Israeli terror victims. The project features a full page of photos and personal biographies of Israeli victims. The inserts have been running in more than 20 newspapers nationwide since March and reach approximately 1 million readers.

Coordinated by undergraduates Naphtali Weisz and Judah Elbaum, the project originated during Operation Torah Shield II, when the 200 YU students who participated in the mission to Israel wanted to channel their experience into a project that would have a lasting impact.

Also, many students have pledged at least 1% of their gross summer earnings to help support victims in Israel of Palestinian violence.



Faculty and administrators joined more than 1,000 YU students at the largest Israel Day Parade on record in NYC.

Langfan Family Oratory Competition Extended to Undergraduates

The Langfan family, who in 1999 established a prize competition for oratory at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, extended the competition this year to include Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, and Sy Syms School of Business.

The competition took place on April 24 for Midtown Campus students and May 1 for Wilf Campus students. Dr. Nada Beth Glick, director of academic advisement, undergraduate men, who coordinated the May 1 event, consulted with the coordinators of Cardozo's program on issues of topic, length, and format "to ensure that our program was based on the model that law students use."

While Cardozo and Yeshiva College held separate competitions this year, they jointly agreed on a topic, "Government Aid to Religious Schools and the Role of the First Amendment Today," which the schools felt would be suitable for both law students and undergraduates.

The nine judges included Michael Hecht, MSTA dean and YC pre-law adviser; Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies' Dr. Arthur Hyman; Dr. William Lee, Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program director at YC; and YC and CSL alumnus Menashe Shapiro.

Participating students each made their presentations in front of three judges, and six finalists were selected for the final round.

The three prizes of \$1,400, \$700, and \$400 were awarded to Hillel Deutsch, Alan Goldsmith, and Moshe Goodman, respectively.

At the Midtown Campus event, students spoke on the topic of "Drug Testing of High School Students," and the top prize was split between Abby Malen and Adina Levine.

Students were encouraged to base their research on constitutional evidence and Supreme Court cases, and the participants showed a wide range of experience with oral presentation.



Pictured from left: Mr. Deutsch, Dr. Glick, Mr. Goodman, and Mr. Goldschmidt at the competition.

"The judges were very impressed with the level of preparation by the participants," said Dr. Glick.

"I enjoyed the challenge of rhetoric and presenting an argument for a case that is relevant to the American and Jewish community, and specifically to us as YU students," said Hillel Deutsch, graduating YC senior, outgoing presi-

dent of the YU Debate Society, and the top YC competition winner.

This past semester, the YU debate team took top honors in Cornell University's fifth annual open invitational impromptu debate tournament. YU debaters defeated entrants from Cornell, Yale University, Queens College, Osborne, New School University, and Rockland Com-

munity College to clinch the top three overall places in the competition, and took a total of 7 of the top 10 places. Team captain Hillel Deutsch was named best debater for overall record (4-0) and speaker points (89 out of a possible 90). Avi Holczer came in second, and third place was taken by Miriam Bardi, the first rookie debater at SCW to go undefeated for three rounds.

Spotlight on Alumni: Helping Deaf in Israel to Cope

Rabbi Chanoch Yeres (YH'73, YC'76, WSSW'80, RIETS'80) is educational coordinator of the Yeshiva University Israel Alumni's (YUIA) Jewish Heritage Program for the Hearing-Impaired.

A psychologist, he has been helping hearing-impaired residents of the sometimes besieged Jerusalem suburb of Gilo, which faces the Arab village of Beit Jala, cope with the emotional stress of living through trying times.

Supported by allocations from the Jewish Agency for Israel, the program provides

essential practical and psychological support, including installation of special flashing lights that warn of gunfire in the homes of hearing-impaired residents of Gilo, vibrating beepers that display text messages with instructions on what to do in an emergency, and video telephones that enable the hearing impaired to "see" the person calling and communicate in sign language.

"The deaf person sees people in states of hysteria or running in the streets and he or she doesn't know what is going on, doesn't know where

family members are and has no way to contact anyone. We provide them with the tools to get vital information in real time," Rabbi Yeres said.

"Our support helps these families overcome their fears and learn to go about their normal lives. Our programs literally are lifesavers for the deaf and hearing impaired," he said.

In addition, YUIA sponsored a two-part family workshop on dealing with stress for the hearing impaired, offering practical solutions to dealing with danger.

Honors Program

continued from page 1

SCW valedictorian. Each of the graduates completed a minimum of seven honors courses, researched and wrote a Senior Project under the direction of a faculty mentor, and participated each semester in a wide range of required extracurricular events.

The Senior Project represents the culmination of each honors student's academic career at Stern College. Work

on the project begins during the second semester of the student's junior year and continues throughout the entire senior year. Working one-on-one with her mentor, each student uses the three semesters to delve into a specific area of research within the area of her major. The results have been extremely impressive.

This year's graduates were awarded 17 departmental and college awards and included editors of a wide range of YU publications, including *The*

Observer, *Hamevaser*, and *Derech Ha Teva*. Graduates who will be continuing their education in the fall of 2002 will be studying at, among other places, Harvard Law School, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, and Columbia University Graduate School (computational biology), Hofstra University (clinical psychology), and YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. (See page 4 for senior honor theses and project titles).

Scholar Awards



Benefactor Benjamin Teitel with Amy Bergman (left) and Karen Weiss, SCW students who were named Esther Teitel Scholars this year, in memory of Mr. Teitel's wife.



Jack Rudin (third from left, back row), a Benefactor of the University and its Albert Einstein College of Medicine, with Jack and Susan Rudin Educational Scholars.

Brian McNulty: From EMT to NYPD to Einstein MD

Going beyond the call of duty comes naturally to Brian McNulty, a third-year medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. A volunteer fireman in his hometown of Bethpage, NY, since age 15, Mr. McNulty has dedicated his life to helping his fellow man.

After earning his emergency medical technician license, he became an AMT (advanced medical technician), which is an intermediate paramedic. He then joined the New York City Emergency Medical Service and after only a few days was advised to take the paramedic exam since he had already gained a good deal of experience during his volunteer service.

"I didn't have the money to pay for the tolls to go to Einstein to take the paramedic exam and I had to hook up with another person in my class," Mr. McNulty said. "My interview went very well and six months later I entered the Institute of Emergency Medicine at AECOM."

After six years of service as a NYC paramedic, Mr. McNulty decided that he had to look for another line of work to increase his earnings and he

entered the NYC Police Academy in 1986.

"Being a police officer allowed me to continue helping people and put my previous training to good use."

An unusually self-effacing



Brian McNulty follows his dream at Einstein.

man, Mr. McNulty is certified in an array of specialties, including extrication, underwater rescue, rope rescue, and the handling of hazardous materials. He is also OSHA-certified as a confined space attendant and entrant.

This unusual credential

means he is trained to assist at locations like Ground Zero, where the rescue or recovery of individuals is perilous. In addition, he is a NY State radiological monitor, which qualifies him to assist in situations

such as nuclear spills.

Following a shooting episode in which he was injured in the line of duty, Mr. McNulty retired from the police force in 1993.

"After getting my life together and recovering from my injury, I went back to school in

1995 and finished my undergraduate work at SUNY Stony Brook in 1999 with a degree in biology. Most policemen become involved with security work after they retire or become electricians or engineers.

"Being a doctor was something I always wanted to do and it was a natural progression from my previous training. Twenty years have passed since that first time on the Einstein campus and yet I really felt at home when I came back as a medical student."

Undertaking medical school at age 38, with three daughters, might present a daunting challenge. However, Mr. McNulty approached this with his characteristic sanguine attitude.

"Juggling school and family has been my greatest challenge but we've done very well. The first year was the most trying because I tried to be home as much as possible for family reasons, which detracted from my study time.

I have an apartment on campus and now I commute on weekends and two or three times a week. Fortunately, my wife, Barbara, has been very supportive. I write my papers in longhand, fax them to her,

and she emails them back to me. We believe in short term sacrifices for long term goals."

AECOM has built a reputation for attracting a diverse student body in terms of ethnicity and age. This policy fosters an environment that is comfortable and reassuring for the atypical student and enhances the quality and depth of the student body.

Mr. McNulty is undecided as to whether to pursue family or emergency medicine. He is considering a program at Long Island Jewish Medical Center that merges internal medicine with emergency medicine but the pace of a private practice is enticing.

Still an active member in the East Farmingdale Fire Volunteer Department when he is at home, Mr. McNulty will always be performing emergency medicine and helping those in need regardless of his ultimate career choice.

He also hopes that his journey will serve as an example for fellow policemen to follow their dreams after they retire from the police force. Mr. McNulty is a true inspiration for anyone who has a dream waiting to be realized.

FGS, WSSW Reunion Days: Sharing Knowledge and Experience



The Honorable Vito J. Lopez WSSW '70 keynotes WSSW reunion.



Mary Ellen Carty '97FGS and Sherry Gaines Cutler '97 address fellow alumni.

Sleeping and Dreaming Disorders" and "The Daddy Dilemma" were among the diverse topics of a Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology alumni association sponsored event, "Ferkauf Today: Learning from Each Other."

The May 19 gathering, a day-long series of academic seminars featuring faculty members and prominent alumni, was designed to allow alumni to reconnect with each other as well as offer psychology professionals interesting lectures on timely topics.

The event was open to Ferkauf alumni and current Ferkauf students.

The program began with breakfast and orientation, and included two classes per time slot for participants to choose from. It concluded with remarks by the alumni association copresidents, Ferkauf Dean Lawrence J. Siegal, PhD, and keynote address, "Shocks and Aftershocks: The Continuing Significance of Stanley Milgram's Obedience Studies," by Thomas Blass, PhD '69.

"I wanted to see what the

school was like ten years after I graduated, and it was also an opportunity for me to give something back," said Susan Silver Bartell, PsyD '91, who spoke on a father's relationship to his children and recently published two books on the subject, *Stepliving for Teens* and *Mommy or Daddy: Whose Side Am I On?*

Approximately 50 alumni and faculty attended the event, and many expressed interest in attending similar alumni events in the future. "It was important for me to come to support the alumni association, and it's always good to update your knowledge," said Ellen Klausner, PhD '93.

"Events like these give us the opportunity to share knowledge with fellow alumni working in the psychology field, and it allows our alumni to play an active role in Ferkauf, and reconnect with the School," said Dean Siegal.

In April, a group of Wurzeiler School of Social Work alumni returned to the School as "teachers" while many more came back as students

for "Learn From the Many Faces of Social Work," Wurzeiler's first daylong academic program, specifically for alumni. It was attended by 65 alumni.

The gathering consisted of four "classes" covering various social work topics, given by expert alumni and Wurzeiler faculty members.

The program was designed so that alumni affairs staffers could meet alumni and get to know their special skills, and to offer them an opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge, says Adam M. Greenwald, director of alumni affairs for Wurzeiler.

The classes emphasized the diversity of the alumni population and the types of work they do. They dealt with faith and spirituality, ethics in nursing homes, communal practice, and social work from an urban perspective. The Honorable Vito J. Lopez WSSW '70, New York State Assemblyman, 53rd Assembly District, gave the keynote address about "Social Work and Politics."

Einstein Roundup

• Anna Velcich, MD, and Leonard Augenlicht, MD, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center, are the lead authors of research, published in the journal *Science*, providing information that could be employed in the prognosis and prevention of colorectal cancer. A decisive experiment has revealed that a particular gene and the protein it encodes are intimately involved in the development of the disease. The work also produced the first mouse model for rectal cancer.

• Richard Kitsis, MD, associate professor of cell biology, is among investigators nationwide searching for the link between cell mortality and human disease. Researching “cell suicide,” a natural biological process that sometimes goes haywire, he is now testing a compound that could inhibit key steps in the “suicide” program, thus perhaps reducing tissue damage after heart attacks.

• The American Association of Anatomists recently presented its prestigious Henry Gray Laureate to Dr. Peter Satir, professor of anatomy and structural biology at Einstein. The award, which is the highest honor accorded by the association, is given annually to recognize the contributions to, and achievements in, the anatomical sciences. Dr. Satir was cited for his work in elucidating the structural basis of ciliary movements.

• Through its Academic Medicine and Managed Care Forum, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation awarded researchers at Einstein a Quality Care Research Fund grant of \$330,000 to support research evaluating the impact of a skills-based educational intervention for primary care physicians designed to improve the ways asthma care is administered. Robert Morrow, MD, is project director; Michael Mulvihill, MD, is principal investigator.

• Thomas Rohan, MD, PhD, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine at Einstein and Montefiore Medical Center and associate director of the Cancer Control and Epidemiology Program at the Einstein Cancer Center. Roman Perez-Soler, MD, has been appointed director of the Division of Medical Oncology at Einstein and associate director for clinical research at the Einstein Cancer Center.

MRI Research Center at Einstein

A recent gift from Evelyn Gruss Lipper, MD, honors the memory of her parents and extends their legacy of philanthropic leadership in education and medical science.

Throughout their lives, Joseph S. and Caroline Gruss touched the University in countless ways with their generosity and support. Now, thanks to a gift from the Gruss Lipper Foundation to Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the 18,500 square-foot Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center has been built on the Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus in the Bronx.

Dr. Lipper, an Einstein alumna (class of '71) and pediatrician, is director of child development at New York Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center. She previously served as director of the Premature Follow-Up Program at AECOM's Rose F. Kennedy Center for Research in Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Housed within the new research center will be some of the most sophisticated high-field magnets ever developed for basic research and clinical

studies. The center will significantly advance the school's existing research strengths, including ongoing investigations in diabetes, cancer, liver diseases, sickle cell diseases, human genetics, and the workings of the human brain.

Dr. Lipper's gift to name the research center also relates to her own professional activities and interests. “In my clinical and research work with children, we are constantly seeking to better understand how the brain functions,” she says. “MRI technology plays a vital role in this area.”

Dr. Hoby Hetherington is one of the outstanding medical scientists who have found a research home at the new facility. The center's director, he is an internationally recognized expert in magnetic resonance who has pioneered the application of MRI technical advances and techniques in clinical research. Dr. Jullie Pan, associate director of the center, has utilized the technology in fundamental studies of multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, and normal brain metabolism. Both she and Dr. Hetherington recently came to Einstein from Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Dr. Soloveitchik Named Merkin Professor

Dr. Haym Soloveitchik, a member of the faculty at Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies who is a leading figure in Jewish academic scholarship, recently became The Merkin Family Professor of Jewish History and Literature at the School.

The first occupant of the Chair, his investiture by President Norman Lamm took place at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, where Lauren and J. Ezra Merkin sponsored the inaugural lecture by Dr. Soloveitchik. It was followed by a reception for members, friends, and guests of the Merkin family.

Following opening remarks by Mordecai D. Katz, Revel Board chairman, Dr. Lamm paid tribute to the Merkin family for its leadership and philanthropic support. He then introduced Dr. Soloveitchik, University Professor and distinguished Talmudist and historian, who spoke on “Halakhah, Taboo, and the Origin of Jewish Money Lending.”

Dr. Soloveitchik received a BA from Harvard University, was ordained at RIETS, and earned a doctorate in Jewish history from Hebrew University. He is an expert in Jewish medieval history and is the author of several books and numerous scholarly articles.



From left: Lauren and J. Ezra Merkin with Dr. Haym Soloveitchik and President Lamm

Dr. Soloveitchik's late father, the revered Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, was the initial occupant of the Leib Merkin Distinguished Professorial Chair in Talmud and Jewish Philosophy at RIETS. The Leib Merkin chair was endowed by Ezra Merkin's late father, Hermann Merkin, who served as vice chairman of the University for many years.

In addition, in recognition of a gift by Hermann and Ursula Merkin, the Isaac Breuer College for Hebraic Studies was named in memory of Dr. Isaac Breuer, the father of Ursula Merkin.

J. Ezra and Lauren Merkin have been at the forefront of leadership and support of the

Jewish community for many years. Mr. Merkin, recently elected to the YU Board of Trustees has been a member of the board of RIETS since 1984.

He serves as chairman of the Investment Committees of both Yeshiva University and UJA/Federation of New York.

In addition, he serves as president of Fifth Avenue Synagogue and as vice chairman of the Ramaz School. He is a graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School.

His wife, the former Lauren Korngold, is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and the Wharton School. Mrs. Merkin serves as a trustee of the Avi Chai Foundation.

Azrieli Initiates Jewish Thought and Philosophy Program for YUHS Teachers

The Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration is offering a summer seminar enrichment program for Yeshiva University high school teachers to develop new curricula in Jewish thought and philosophy.

Dr. David Shatz, professor of philosophy at Stern College for Women, directs the program.

“This is an exciting initiative that is modeled on the annual seminars offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities,” said Dr. David Schnall, Azrieli dean.

“It goes well beyond, however, in its attempt to empower high school teachers and allow them to develop their own curricula.”

Two teams of teachers are participants—five from YU's girls' high school and four from its boys' high school. The program spans two weeks and requires teachers to spend six hours each day working in classes and on group projects.

Additionally, participants may earn credit toward a graduate degree at Azrieli.

“Directing this seminar is an exciting proposition,” Dr. Shatz said. “There's a real need for Jewish thought at the high school level. Exposure to this aspect of our tradition is essential to helping students think about religious issues in a serious, disciplined way. Unfortunately, the area is often neglected.”

As part of the program, Dr. Shatz conducts interactive sessions and leads discussions on topics including “Faith and Reason,” “Science and Judaism,” “Jewish Law and Morality,” and “Religious Zionism and the Jewish Philosophy of History.”

“The program is exciting because our teachers will not only be learning inspiring material, but material that is designed specifically to inspire our students,” said Rochelle Brand, principal of Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High

School for Girls. “The venture further solidifies the ongoing unique relationship between the University and its high schools.”

Dr. Jeremiah Unterman, director of the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools and Yeshiva High Schools (AMODS), said that Azrieli will offer workshops for teachers from other schools to demonstrate the program and its effectiveness.

“Through the participation of Dr. Unterman, this effort will develop models for excellence that can be adapted by Jewish schools throughout the country,” said Dean Schnall.

“Bringing leading scholars such as Dr. Shatz under the umbrella of Azrieli assures the success of these endeavors and further promotes interdivisional collaboration, utilizing the rich resources available at our campus. Azrieli is proud to serve as the engine for this collaboration,” he added.



New Broadened PhD program in Jewish Studies at Revel

When Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies opened its doors in 1937, it offered an innovative program in advanced Judaic studies for Orthodox rabbis and academicians, who were its original students and who were destined to make their mark on the American Jewish scene. This tradition of innovation continues today with a newly branded PhD program in Jewish studies that has recently been approved by the New York State Education Department.

The new doctoral program offers concentrations in Bible, medieval Jewish history, modern Jewish history, medieval Jewish philosophy, and Talmudic studies, and replaces current, separate PhD programs in these fields. This change is a reflection of the changing face of academic Jewish studies programs across the country that are moving from specialized fields to a broader, interdisciplinary approach.

"This new academic direction will give students an in-

depth knowledge of a specific discipline, while at the same time provide them with enough knowledge in other fields of Jewish studies to make them effective teachers and better researchers," said Dr. Arthur Hyman, distinguished service professor of philosophy and BRGJS dean. "The change will ensure greater breadth in the training of doctoral students and enhance integration among the various fields of concentration," he added.

The New York State Education Department formed a select committee of outside professors to review the current state of the academic programs in the School. After spending two days there, the committee highly recommended the PhD program change. Also commended by the committee was the School's faculty, student enthusiasm, the advisement program, and the excellent library facilities and resources.

The new doctoral program is also in line with the overall

expansion and development the School has seen since Dr. Hyman was appointed dean in 1991. Nine years ago, enrollment was 80 students, almost exclusively from Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women; now it has approximately 125 students from a range of schools, including Princeton, Columbia, Barnard, and Yale. The number of women enrolled has also increased substantially, and currently makes up about 40% of the student population.

Additionally, a generous scholarship and fellowship program has been instrumental in attracting more students. Revel Board of Directors Chairman Mordecai D. Katz, together with the Board, has been successful in securing financial support, especially fellowships. In 1991, only seven students received scholarships, which provide tuition assistance and fellowships. Approximately 45 students currently benefit from these awards.

Revel's faculty, which cur-



Dean Arthur Hyman teaching medieval Jewish philosophy.

rently numbers nine full-time and five visiting professors, are graduates from prestigious Jewish studies PhD programs around the nation. All the Revel faculty are active in scholarly work, publishing books and articles, speaking at national and international conferences, and receiving awards of recognition.

The Revel School is an enterprise of intensive scholarship. Its mission—to encour-

age and nurture Judaic scholarship among teachers, academicians, rabbis, and lay persons—is essential to imparting knowledge of Jewish history, philosophy, and sacred texts to ensure Jewish continuity. The School also trains men and women as teachers and researchers in Jewish studies and prepares them for positions as specialized teachers in Jewish day schools and yeshivot throughout the nation.

Turning a Campus into a Community

Students attending any one of the undergraduate or graduate schools on the Wilf Campus may think of Washington Heights as their home away from home. But for many Yeshiva University students, faculty, and staff who live around the Wilf Campus year-round, Washington Heights is not only a home, but also an attractive, thriving Jewish community.

The community has grown tremendously over the past decade in large part due to a successful effort by YU to create a viable environment for young University and RIETS-affiliated couples and families. Rabbi Daniel Rapp, assistant to the dean of undergraduate Jewish and instructor in Bible, has lived near the Wilf Campus for seven years with his wife, Chaya, and has seen dramatic changes not only in the area's quality of life, but also in the number of people living there.

"I remember in 1995 the community had twenty-five couples, and nine of them had children," said Rabbi Rapp. Now there are approximately

90 couples and families living in the area. There is also an *eruv* (enclosure permitting Jews to carry on the Sabbath), a playground between YU apartment buildings, and many more kosher food stores, he said.

YU's Independent Housing Program (IHP) provides apartments for many of the YU and RIETS-affiliated couples and families in the area, who are attracted to the program by the reasonable apartment rents and convenience to University facilities, a yeshiva, and transportation. IHP owns and operates apartments in the Wilf Campus area, from 188th to 182nd streets. And, as more people consider living in the Wilf Campus area, the rate of applications to IHP keeps increasing.

Shira and Jason Freudenberger, who are studying at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and RIETS, respectively, have been living in the area for nearly a year in Independent Housing. They like the convenience and community atmosphere.

"This a very close-knit com-

munity and many facilities are available," said Shira. "I can use the YU library to study at night, and Jason likes living right across the street from the RIETS building. Members of the community also organize events for everyone, which brings people together."

Undergraduate and high school students living in campus dormitories are often invited to nearby homes for Shabbat, creating a stabilizing environment for students, especially out-of-towners.

"When students go to community members' homes in the area for Shabbat, it gives their parents a more comfortable feeling about sending them here," said Rabbi Rapp.

Additionally, the increase in kosher food stores and restaurants in Washington Heights, especially in the Wilf Campus area, in recent years has attracted people and has given the area a competitive edge comparable to other young communities in New York and New Jersey. Within the past two years, the Wilf Campus area has gained a café, a sandwich shop, a minimar-



Kaffeine owners Arik Lifshitz, Steve Martinek, and David Batalion

ket, and an expanded bakery/dairy restaurant.

"We wanted to open a café because it gives YU students and faculty, young couples, and community members a place to sit down and get together," said Steve Martinek, former Sy Syms student and owner and manager of Kaffeine, a kosher dairy café on 184th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

"Keeping kosher in Wash-

ington Heights can be inconvenient for couples and families," said Shmuel Alkolombre, SSSB alumnus and owner of a new kosher minimarket on Amsterdam Avenue. Mr. Alkolombre, who remembers trekking across Washington Heights to buy kosher groceries as a student, wants his store "to cater to those who live around here because it's a necessity in any Jewish community."

Walter Wurzbarger, Philosophy Professor and Rabbi, Dies

Walter Wurzbarger, PhD, adjunct professor of philosophy



Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger inspired generations of rabbinic and lay leaders of Jewish life.

at YU, died April 16 at the age of 82. He taught philosophy at Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College from 1967 until earlier this year, when he stopped teaching because of ill health.

The YU community held a memorial service in the Lipschutz-Gutwirth Study Hall and Shul in the Leah and Joseph Rubin Residence Hall May 13. A *sefer torah* (Torah scroll) is being donated by his friends, YU Guardians Rochelle and Edward Berkowitz and their children, who were present at the memorial.

With a BA from Yeshiva College in 1943 and *semikhah* (ordination) from RIETS in 1944, he earned an

MA and PhD in philosophy from Harvard University. In 1987, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at YU's Centennial Commencement. Most recently he was rabbi of Congregation Shaaray Tefila in Lawrence, NY, until he retired in 1994. Before that he served at pulpits in Boston and Canada.

A respected rabbi, President Norman Lamm once called him a "prodigious intellectual and moral activist whose leadership has been inspiring to generations of rabbinic and lay leaders of Jewish life." Dr. Wurzbarger was a distinguished member of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's first generation of students and was a close friend of the Rav and his family for many years.

He was outspoken about his belief that Modern Orthodoxy should engage with con-

temporary society. "He was a very good teacher...the intellectual of the Modern Orthodox rabbinate," said Dr. Lamm.

Dr. Wurzbarger served as president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the nation's largest Orthodox rabbinical group, and of the Synagogue Council of America, a now-defunct organization that represented Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism. In 1983, he was presented with the National Rabbinic Leadership Award from the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

He was also a member of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the major Jewish group that is in dialogue with the Vatican.

Dr. Wurzbarger immigrated to the United States in 1938

from Munich, shortly after Kristallnacht. A prolific author whose work has appeared in numerous religious and secular publications and scholarly journals, Dr. Wurzbarger was the editor for 26 years of the Orthodox journal *Tradition*, and co-editor with Dr. Lamm of *A Treasury of Tradition* (Jewish Publication Society, 1994). He is the author of *Ethics of Responsibility: Pluralistic Approaches to Covenantal Ethics* (Jewish Publication Society, 1994) and *God is Proof Enough* (Devora Publishing, 2000).

He is survived by his wife, Naomi; three sons, Dr. Benjamin of Jerusalem, Joshua of Manhattan, and Myron '73Y of Hewlett, NY; and one grandchild.