

YU Today

VOLUME 8 NO. 2

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY • MARCH 2002



Main Campus named for Wilf family

The Wilf family of Hillside, NJ, has made a new gift to Yeshiva University of \$10 million, chiefly to underwrite major enhancements to its main campus in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

In gratitude for the family's extraordinary generosity, the campus has been named the Wilf Campus of Yeshiva University.

Eight million dollars of the gift will, over the next few years, provide a facelift for the seven city blocks of the uptown campus, while the balance of the gift will continue the family's support of the Wilf Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship Fund at YU.

The campus enhancements will greatly improve the quality of campus life and the over-

all academic experience of students. The Wilf Campus is home to 3,000 students and more than 1,000 faculty and staff.

Key elements of the beautification plan include alterations in the Tenzer Gardens area adjacent to Belfer Hall; installation of a signature sculpture identifying the campus and new functional landscaping of the lawn in front of the Max Stern Athletic Center; dramatic redesign and landscaping of the southeastern entrance to the campus on Amsterdam Avenue; and installation of new lighting posts and placement of new banners throughout the campus. Much of the work may require approval by city government.

"I cannot overstate the importance of the Wilf family's

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Operation Torah Shield II repeats history

On January 13, 200 Yeshiva University students embarked on a weeklong solidarity mission to Israel, Operation Torah Shield II. The program, created and designed by students, aimed to uplift Israelis and lend support to victims of terror.

Operation Torah Shield II is a sequel to Torah Shield I, which took place January 14-28, 1991, during the Gulf War. Torah Shield I took 400 students to Israel to demonstrate support for the country despite the US State Department's advisory to avoid travel to the region.

Participants in Torah Shield II met with Israelis who have been victims of terror, and attended lectures and seminars on Israel's history, culture, and

sites. Students visited cancer patients, took a tour of Jerusalem's Old City, and traveled to a kibbutz.

Student executive committee member Yehuda Shmidman said, "While visiting communities, participants took every possible opportunity to meet with families, children, and soldiers to offer encouragement."

The mission featured a unique component: the Tourism Ambassador Training Program. The Israel Ministry of Tourism appointed students official Tourism Ambassadors of the State of Israel and they will attend continuing training sessions offered by the Ministry in the US.

Additionally, students will be speaking in more than

1,000 venues across the country including synagogues, community centers, and conferences, to promote tourism to Israel.

Student committee member Joshua Kramer said, "Our mission has not ended now that we have returned. In fact, our real work has just begun."

They also visited more than 20 yeshivot and seminaries across the country to study with students currently enrolled in YU's S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program.

Throughout the mission, several RIETS roshei yeshiva joined the group to lecture and participate in activities. They included Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Joel and Maria Finkle Visiting Israeli Rosh

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President of Israel at RIETS Chag HaSemikhah-March 10

Israel President Moshe Katsav and Herbert Smilowitz, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), will be honored at RIETS' Chag HaSemikhah convocation on Sunday, March 10.

The Chag HaSemikhah ceremony, which takes place every four years, will celebrate the ordination of 147 RIETS students.

This year's event will also mark the culmination of Rabbi Norman Lamm's quarter century as president of RIETS and

of Yeshiva University.

Mr. Smilowitz has been a consistent supporter of outreach services through the Max Stern Division of Communal Services at RIETS. He and his wife Marilyn recently made a new Guardian-level

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Faculty Profile

Carole Silver: Looking back, looking forward

Dr. Carole Silver, longtime professor of English at Stern College for Women, reflects on the sweeping changes at SCW during her tenure and discusses her passion for teaching and writing.

You've been at Stern for a while. How long has this been your home?

It's been thirty-three years, but as I said to President Lamm, I started when I was ten. I was chairman of the University's Humanities Division from the late 1980s until the fall semester of 2001.

Earlier, while getting my doctorate at Columbia, I taught at Hunter and Vassar Colleges. I've also taught in the graduate English department at New York University.

What changes have you seen during this time?



CAROLE SILVER

Stern has more than doubled in size and courses and students have become more sophisticated.

The number of courses we have taught over the years has literally tripled (I've taught about forty different courses); we're always working in new areas, trying to keep up with

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FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Kanarfogel among alumni awardees



In December, Yeshiva College alumnus Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel received the YC Alumni Association Samuel Belkin Literary Award for his second book, *Peering Through the Lattices: Mystical, Magical and Pietistic Dimensions in the Tosafist Period*.

A widely recognized authority in the areas of medieval intellectual history and rabbinic literature, he is the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish

Studies and chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at Stern College for Women. In 1992 he received the award for his first book, *Jewish Education and Society in the High Middle Ages*, and is the only author thus far to receive the honor twice.

At the annual Yeshiva University Alumni Awards Ceremony, held at Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center at the Midtown Campus, Dr. Kanarfogel noted wryly that he has spent his entire adult and professional life at Yeshiva University. He also noted—seriously—that he believes a book like his could only have

been written by a Yeshiva College or Stern College for Women graduate.

“Having studied at Yeshiva with my rebbeim and teachers in all fields, it became clear to me” that one should “expect the unexpected” when it comes to people at YU, he said. “Though they were immersed in Torah study, they often had interests that were very different.”

His book demonstrates that many *tosafists* (legal experts in the Middle Ages) were involved in mystical and magical doctrines.

Other YC awardees were Sam Hartstein '43, for Pro-

fessional Achievement; Rabbi Chaim Brovender '62, for Religion and Religious Education; and Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein '73, for Community Service Leadership.

SCW Samuel Belkin Memorial Award recipients were Elisheva Benovitz Kaminetsky '91, for Jewish Education; Barbara Cooper Radinsky '65, for Community Relations; and Dr. Jessica Wernick Grant '62S, for professional achievement.

Judith Krotki Putterman, '71, received the Norman Lamm Business Leadership Award from Sy Syms School of Business.

Dr. J. David Bleich, Herbert and Florence Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics, CSL, authored “Clergy Privilege and Conscientious Objection to the Privilege,” *Law and Religion: Current Legal Issues*, vol. 4, “Genetic Engineering,” *HaMaariv*, September 2001, and “Use of Surveillance Systems on Shabbat, Use of Contact Lenses on Shabbat,” *Tradition*. Also, he was a scholar in residence at Cong. Etz Chaim, Livingston, NJ.

Dr. Louis Feldman, Abraham Wouk Family Professor of Classics and Literature, wrote articles that appeared in *The Cambridge History of Judaism; Jewish Quarterly Review; Reinterpreting Revelation and Tradition: Jews and Christians in Conversation; Where We Stand: Issues and Debates in Ancient Judaism; Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation; and Biblical Archaeology Review*. He delivered lectures at the Colloquium on the Antiquities of Flavius Josephus; the Sorbonne in Paris; and the Society of Biblical Literature, Denver.

Cantor Sherwood Goffin, coordinator of outreach programs, BSJM, lectured at Young Israel of Holliswood on “The Music of Duchenen.” He lectured at Young Israel of Woodmere on “The Missinal Tunes—The Sacred Melodies of the Yomim Noroim.”

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History, participated in a conference to celebrate the inauguration of the Center for Jewish History as a major resource in Jewish studies. He spoke on “American Jewish History: Personal and Professional Reflections on a Discipline’s Path Towards Scholarly Acceptance.”

Dr. Meir Havazelet, professor of Bible, published “Unknown Customs of Hospitality and Protection,” *Saadia’s Commentary and Yemenite Midrashim, Bait Mikrah, August 1962*. He authored “The Yemenite Midrashim as Historical and Cultural Source,” *Hebrew Language and Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem,

2000. Dr. Havazelet is an editorial member of Tema World Center of Yemenite Scholarship.

Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, assistant to the president, RIETS, has been appointed vice chairman, Continental Council for Day School Education, being launched by the United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Educational Service of North America (JESNA). He spoke at the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in November on “Visions of Judaism in the 21st/58th Century—Where are We Headed?”

Dr. Norman Lamm, YU president, delivered the Harav Lord Jakobovits Annual Memorial Lecture last November at the Hendon United Synagogue in London. He spoke on “Jewish Leadership in Times of Crisis: Duties and Dilemmas.” Also, he led a session of world religious leaders at the World Economic Forum, the elite gathering recently held in NYC. The religious leaders were charged with developing recommendations of religious contributions to setting priorities for the globalization agenda.

Dr. Michelle Levine, assistant professor of Bible, participated in the Annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, D.C., where she presented a paper, “The Inner World of Biblical Character Explored in Nahmanides’ Commentary on Genesis.”

Prof. Edith Lubetski, SCW head librarian, presided over a session on the Pentateuch at the Society of Biblical Literature 2001 International Meeting.

Daniel Pollack, WSSW assistant professor, was interviewed by BBC Radio about a Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in the case of *Wilkinson v. Flagner*. Prison officials cut off a prisoner’s beard despite his protests of First Amendment religious protection, and the Court ruled that he has the right to sue.

Dr. David A. Rettinger, assistant professor of psychology, was a member of a five-psychologist research team from across the US that tested 167 participants on a variety of tasks to discern the relationships among spatial abilities, visuospatial working memory, and executive functioning. Their results appeared in the December issue of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology—General*, published by the American Psychological Association.

Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig, adjunct professor of Jewish history, delivered a paper at the 13th World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem on “The Moral Status of the Jews in Ashkenaz in the Aftermath of the Black Death.” He wrote the historical introduction to the scholarly edition of the *Responsa of Rabbi Jacob Weil*, published by Machon Jerusalem in Jerusalem. He was scholar-in-residence at the Homowack Hotel in Spring Glen, NY, during Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot.

Dr. Alvin I. Schiff, Irving I. Stone Distinguished Professor of Jewish Education, AGS, spoke on “Biblical and Exegetical Insights into Ancient and Modern Travel.” He also lectured on “Educational Implications of the Reactions to the Twin Tower Tragedy,” Cong. Torah Ohr, Boca Raton.

Prof. Peninnah Schram, associate professor of speech and drama, presented a talk on “The Jewish Oral Tradition and Rhetorical Theory,” Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton.

Rabbi Moses D. Tandler, Rabbi Isaac and Bella Tandler Professor of Jewish Medical Ethics, spoke on “Bioterrorism: Anthrax is Not the Real Assassin” in November.

Dr. Manfred Weidhorn, Abraham S. and Irene Guterman Professor of English Literature, authored “An Early Modern ‘Failure of Nerve,’” *Colloquium: Essays in Literature and Belief: “The Great Paradigm Shift,” Journal of Thought*, fall 2001; and “Landmines of the Mind,” *Michigan Quarterly Review*, fall 2001.

Dr. Walter S. Wurzbarger, adjunct professor of philosophy, was scholar-in-residence at Cong. Shaar Hashomayim, Montreal. He lectured on “What is Unique in Jewish Ethics?—Particularism or Universalism?” and on “Is There a Problem of Evil?”

Dr. Joshua Zimmerman, occupant, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professional Chair in Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies, BRGS, presented a reading of his chapter, “The Attitude of the Bund to Polish Independence, 1897–1905,” at the Center for Jewish History. The event was sponsored by the Yivo Institute as part of a book party in honor of the publication *Jewish Politics in Eastern Europe: The Bund at 100*.

PEOPLE

CSL Board of Directors Chairman Earle I. Mack announced that fellow Board member Eric M. Javits has assumed his duties as ambassador and US representative to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. He was appointed by President Bush.

In December, 49 Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy students traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of their senior seminar course for a weekend that focused on *achdut* (unity). The high school students visited the Senate where they met with NY Senator Hillary Clinton, Israel’s Embassy, the US *continued on p. 4*

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY TODAY

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Living History

In this issue, YU Today inaugurates a series of profiles of YU faculty and staff who have spent a lifetime at the University, becoming invaluable threads in the tapestry that is YU. The first subject is Sam Hartstein, the first director of public relations, who has been associated with the institution for 66 years.

Sam Hartstein: 'The Voice of Yeshiva University'

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

—YOGI BERRA

Somehow, Yogi Berra's loopy advice to make a decision and stick to it makes perfect sense when reflecting on the life of Sam Hartstein.

Mr. Hartstein came to a fork in the road in 1943, the year he graduated from Yeshiva College. While his mentors pressed him to study for the rabbinate at RIETS, his heart told him to pursue a career in journalism, a childhood dream. He chose the latter.

As fate would have it, this path would also keep him closely tied to the Yeshiva community. Indeed, he would spend his entire career at YU as director of public relations, getting the University's message out to the world.

From the Lower East Side

Sam Hartstein was born in 1921 on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the second child of Nathan and Lea (Harris) Hartstein, a tailor and a housewife, recent émigrés from Eastern Europe.

"My parents spoke Yiddish," he says, "but in order for us to become Americanized, they encouraged my brothers and me to speak English. They wanted us to fit in."

The Hartstein kids were also encouraged to get an education and, one by one, they found their way to Yeshiva College.

The eldest brother, Jacob, was a member of YC's first graduating class. Next was Sam, who enrolled at Boys' High School in 1935, and at the Teachers Institute for Men (forerunner of the Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies), and finally at YC.

All the while, Sam worked. "I was earning money by the age of sixteen, one way or another," he says, fiddling with his ever-present cigar. "I did tutoring, preparing kids for bar mitzvah. I worked in the post office Christmas and New Year's. I was also a bellhop, a camp counselor, and for eleven years head counselor at a number of Jewish sleep-away camps."

Most notably, he was a college correspondent for *The New York Times*, one of only two at the time. (The other was Abe Rosenthal, who went on to a long and distinguished

career at the paper.)

He would also serve the "Gray Lady" as a news clerk, working the graveyard shift alongside some of the greats of journalism. The night editors came to value his extensive knowledge of Jewish life and Judaism, giving them a deeper perspective on the horrible events unfolding in Europe during the early '40s.

The only drawback to his stint at the paper was that it often made him late to morning classes. This did not please his rebbe, who once complained to Dr. Belkin.

But the young man, feet firmly planted in both worlds, thrived. He even found time to play on the YC basketball team, eventually rising to team captain, all the more remarkable considering he is barely 5'4".

"Put it in the paper"

Then came an event that would change his life.

The occasion was Dr. Samuel Belkin's election as president of the College in 1943. Yeshiva officials, aware of Mr. Hartstein's ties to *The Times*, asked him if he could "put it in the paper." He did.

Subsequent requests for publicity were also handled with success, and the administration eventually invited him to establish a publicity department at the College. Four years later, he was hired full time at a salary of \$3,000 a year.

Over the years, he publicized and chronicled a bewildering array of events and milestones at Yeshiva, from celebrations to groundbreakings to literary symposia to honorary doctorates.

He is particularly proud of his work related to the creation of the University and the founding of the medical school, Stern College for Women, and the law school.

"The best part is that I've seen all of them thrive," says Mr. Hartstein, who has been called "the voice of Yeshiva University."

His own department thrived as well. In his 51 years at the helm, the department evolved from a one-man show into a multifaceted media and development operation, earning him numerous industry honors and the respect of his employees (although at times he could be a gruff, demanding boss.)



His term of service is believed to be the longest of any public relations professional at a university or Jewish organization in America.

"When I started, every time I called a newspaper I had to spell out the name Yeshiva," he says. "The word 'yeshiva' was an alien term in American society. I do hope we have overcome this handicap."

The changes he witnessed during his tenure at YU are astonishing. Enrollment grew from 850 to 7,000, the faculty from 94 to 1,092, the budget from \$444,000 to \$315 million, and the physical plant from a single building in Washington Heights to four major campuses, including affiliates in Jerusalem and, until recently, Los Angeles.

But Mr. Hartstein, who has lived in Washington Heights since 1935, is more impressed by what hasn't changed.

"What is amazing about my experiences here is how so many things have remained constant. For example, a commitment to Torah study, as well as the commitment to outreach," he says.

He knows of what he speaks. Just after World War II, Mr. Hartstein studied Yiddish so that he could converse with European refugees who came to YU as students and faculty. And he reached out to help many students and employees in the years since.

Meetings with remarkable men—and women

By staying at Yeshiva all those years, Sam Hartstein didn't go out into the world; instead, the world came to him.

Over the years, a bewildering

number of international figures have come to YU to deliver lectures and to accept awards and honors.

As head of public relations, Mr. Hartstein was fortunate to meet most of them, including Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Reagan, and Bush (the elder), David Ben Gurion, Bernard Baruch, Golda Meir, Earl Warren, and Albert Einstein, to name a few.

Mention of the great physicist evokes one of Mr. Hartstein's fondest memories. "I met Einstein several times," he recalls. "One of those meetings, we brought a number of our outstanding students down to Princeton. One of the people with us was Dr. Benjamin Fine, who was going to interview Einstein for *The Times*."

"When Dr. Fine asked Einstein for his opinion on how mathematics is taught in schools, he replied, 'I don't know,' and that others knew more about the subject than he did."

"It left a lifelong impression on me. The other person of great stature to react similarly was the late Rav while being interviewed by a *Life* magazine reporter for a special issue on Judaism."

From Revel to Belkin to Lamm to...

Mr. Hartstein, now 80, also had the good fortune to know all three Yeshiva presidents. "Remarkable people, outstanding scholars," he says.

"Each one of them brought to the job a special skill and talent. And each one had the courage of his convictions and was forced to make very diffi-

cult decisions, which I'm not sure just anybody could have made."

Does he worry, then, about who will succeed Dr. Norman Lamm? "No, I don't," he says. "One of the advantages of getting older is that you worry less about certain things, and this is one of them. There's nothing I can do about it. It's up to the current president and the board."

Mr. Hartstein "retired" in 1994 at the age of 72. But his definition of the word differs from most. He still reports regularly to his old office, now called the Department of Communications and Public Affairs, where he handles a variety of projects.

"I retired in '94," he insists. "It's a difference of day and night. I don't live by the clock. I don't have the administrative headaches or the meetings—they kill more time than anything."

That same year, he was the recipient of two of Yeshiva's top honors, an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College.

"I have been blessed"

Mr. Hartstein once said that "YU is the greatest Jewish achievement on American soil. It has remained true to its ideals and has never lost sight of its major mission. I am proud that I have been blessed to have played a role in this enterprise."

Many would say that the Yeshiva has been blessed because Sam Hartstein played a role in the life of the University.

PEOPLE

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Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Hillel houses at George Washington University and University of Maryland.

The following MSTA students have been signified as commended students in the 2002 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Avraham Albelda, Oren Epstein, Samuel Flaks, Asher Fredman, Michael Gordon, David Karnarfogel, Michael Lauer, Steven Rosenbloom, Avi Strauss, and Michael Strongin.**

During Thanksgiving week, the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools and Yeshiva High Schools (AMODS), under the auspices of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, cosponsored a principals' seminar in Israel with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the New York Board of Jewish Education. **Dr. Jeremiah Unterman**, AMODS director, and some 20 principals from the US and Canada, joined together with 20 principals of Israeli State religious schools in Jerusalem to discuss methods of making Jewish studies relevant to

American students in a changing world. The principals also began planning "twinning" projects between schools in Israel and North America.

Condolences to

Dorothy Berman, vice chairman, SCW Board of Directors who is a YU Guardian with husband Julius, a YU Trustee and chairman of RIETS' Board of Trustees, on the loss of her mother, Lola Gewirtz.

Marvin Bienenfeld, Benefactor and member, YU Board of Trustees and the RIETS and YC boards, on the loss of his sister Elaine Silver.

Debbie Gibber, YU Museum Board member and YU Guardian with her husband Elliot, a RIETS Board member, on the loss of her father Charles Goldner.

Dr. Elazar Hurvitz, professor of biblical and Talmudic literature and the Dr. Samuel Belkin Professor of Judaic Studies at YC, on the loss of his sister Sarah Hurvitz.

Anthony Kelly, President Lamm's driver, on the loss of his son Tyrin.

Dr. Mitchell Orlian, associate professor of Bible, on the loss of his mother Fanny.

Mareleyn Schneider, associate professor of sociology, on the loss of her sister Estelle.

Helen Stone, wife of the late Irving I. Stone, a Benefactor and Trustee of RIETS, on the loss of her son, Ricky Sill.

Cantor Moshe Tessone, BSJM faculty member and director, Sephardic Community Activities, on the loss of his father-in-law Isaac Omid.

We Mourn

Anna Tulin Elyachar, a distinguished communal leader who with her late husband, Colonel Jehiel R. Elyachar, was a Benefactor.

Judye Hauryluck, former manager of the Production department. Colleagues called her a warm-hearted, hard-working woman who helped many people in her department.

Goldie Levine, a member of the SCW Board of Directors who was a Master Builder with her husband

Seymour. Condolences to her children, alumni Helen (Mrs. Jacob) Berman, Rebecca (Dr. Charles) Sprung, and Daniel E. (and Rosalind) Levine.

Binyamin Peled, a former Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent. Born in New York, he graduated from YU before emigrating to Palestine in 1935. In addition to JTA, Mr. Peled also worked for *The Palestine Post* and a number of foreign wire services, covering the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel and the country's first decades.

Howard M. Squadron, attorney and former member of the CSL Board of Directors who established Cardozo's Squadron Program in Law, Media, and Society and who played a significant role in strengthening the law school.

Bronka Weintraub, a member of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Women's Division and a Benefactor with her late husband Jacob. They supported medical research and education programs at Einstein.

Mazal tov

Gladys (Dr. Julius) Cherny, administrative assistant to President Lamm, on the birth of grandson Samuel Cherny.

Dr. Norman Linzer, occupant, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Chair in Jewish Family Social Work, WSSW, and his wife Diane on the bat mitzvah of granddaughter Aderet Sara, daughter of Moshe and Rebecca Linzer, in Israel.

Dr. Meir Havazelet and his wife on the birth of a grandson to their son Ehud.

Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel YH '73, YC '77, R '79, B '87, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish Studies and Chairman, Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, and his wife Dr. Devorah Tova SCW '02 to Yossi Milgrom YC '02.

The Zucker Family on the birth of a son to Erica Zucker, widow of Andrew Zucker, a Cardozo Law School alumnus who was killed in the World Trade Center bombing, may his memory live on.

Editor's note: Mr. Rosenberg perished on September 11 in the World Trade Center tragedy.

1992 alumnus of Yeshiva University High School for Boys

Mark L. Rosenberg

Mark L. Rosenberg met his future wife, Jennifer, in 1995 on a seven-hour bus ride to Richmond, VA, for a Jewish youth program. He was trying to shine a flashlight on a book and turn the pages at the same time. She sat behind him, and finally offered to hold the flashlight. He gratefully accepted. "I thought he was really cute," said Mrs. Rosenberg, who recalled being smitten by his green-blue eyes and smile.

Mr. Rosenberg, 26, a software developer for Marsh & McLennan, was no stranger to buses, or subways, for that matter. His friends called him "Mr. Public Transportation" because he favored mass transit over driving because of concern for the environment. His wife recalls him hailing a cab only three times during their courtship and marriage.

Rosenberg also used to ride from his home in Teaneck, NJ, over the George Washington Bridge and down to Central Park on Sunday mornings.

"He loved the city," his wife said. "He never wanted to go anywhere else."

(With permission of *The New York Times*)

Torah Shield II

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Yeshiva; Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halakhah at RIETS; Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, Nathan and Perel Schupf Professor of Talmud; and Rabbi Harold Reichman.

Another facet of the mission was Project Keshet. Prior to departure, students organized drives in communities

throughout the East Coast to collect items to be dispensed to Israelis.

Each student took a second piece of luggage filled with the donated food and supplies, which were distributed throughout the week.

The mission was coordinated by the Orthodox Union and cosponsored by the Israel Ministry of Tourism, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the World Zionist Or-

ganization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and private donors.

Members of the student committee were instrumental in organizing the program, developing its itinerary, and securing financial support.

Student committee member Julie Pianko said, "We went to Israel with one purpose in mind—to support Israel and to publicly share the message that the best way to demonstrate solidarity is to go there."

RIETS Chag HaSemikhah

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gift to RIETS as part of the RIETS Capital Campaign.

President Katsav will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the ceremony, beginning at 11 am in the Nathan Lampport Auditorium of David H. Zysman Hall on the Wilf Campus.

"He is most deserving of this honor," said Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, assistant to the president and occupant, Rabbi Sidney Shoham Chair in Rabbinic and Community Leadership.

"President Katsav is one of Israel's most distinguished leaders and an observant Jew who is deeply committed to the mission of RIETS. In addition, his selection reflects the historic connection between our institution and Israel."

An Iranian Jew, President Katsav began his political career as mayor of the development town of Kiryat Malachi at age 24. He has been a member of the Knesset since 1977, holding various ministerial positions.

Between June 1996 and July 1999, he served as minister of tourism, deputy prime minister, and minister in charge of Israel-Arab affairs.

Mr. Smilowitz will receive the Eitz Chaim Award, the highest honor RIETS can bestow upon those who have made outstanding contributions to the institution and the Jewish community.

"In his person, his life's dedication, and his family, he is the finest example of the ancient partnership between Zevulun, the tribe of maritime and business, and Yissachar, the tribe of learning," said Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Max and Marion Grill Dean of RIETS.

Among his leadership affiliations, Mr. Smilowitz is vice chairman of Congregation Ahavas Achim B'nai Jacob and David in West Orange, NJ, president of the Jewish Educational Center of Elizabeth, and member of the board of The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

He is the former chief executive officer of Allied Building Products, a wholesale distributor of building materials that he established with his father and brother in 1950.

The Chag HaSemikhah will be of special personal significance to Mr. Smilowitz and his family as his son, Mark, will be among those receiving ordination. His son-in-law, Rabbi Eliyahu Teitz, associate rabbi of the Jewish Educational Center of Elizabeth, NJ, is a RIETS *musmakh* (alumnus).

Board News

The following have been elected members of Yeshiva University boards:

- Board of Trustees, Yeshiva University: Dr. Jayne G. Beker, Marjorie Diener Blenden
- Board of Overseers, Albert Einstein College of Medicine: Neil A. Clark, Dr. Roger Duvivier, Michael F. Price
- Board of Directors, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law: Hon. Sandra J. Feuerstein, Morris Goldfarb, Terence A. Todman, Jr.
- Board of Directors, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies: I. Lewis Gordon
- Board of Directors, Yeshiva College: Joshua Annenberg
- Board of Directors, Stern College for Women: Joan Jakobovitz, Doris Travis
- Board of Directors, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration: Julius Berman, David E. Miller

Student Profile

Mordechai Raskas: Working with wood to help his fellow man

Many people associate community service exclusively with hospital visits, giving charity to those in need, and working in soup kitchens.

But for Mordechai Raskas, a Yeshiva College sophomore and Distinguished Scholar, the ultimate act of community service means using his carpentry skills for projects like building an *aron* (holy ark) when his school needed one, or constructing houses for low-income families.

Mr. Raskas, a St. Louis native, came to YU this year after spending two years studying in Israel. He first learned basic woodworking skills from an older brother, who wanted them to share something in common despite an 18-year age difference.

The initial exposure to wood-

working interested Mr. Raskas and he began to develop those skills, creating bowls, mallets, and signs by "woodturning," a process of shaping wood into forms on a lathe.

"My goal in life is not to be a carpenter, but I love using my woodworking skills as a hobby to create things that people will appreciate and that will help them," Mr. Raskas said.

By the time he was in high school, Mr. Raskas had already set up a woodworking workshop in his house, and had spent a summer at Camp Morasha, a summer sleepaway camp in Pennsylvania, building a gazebo.

When he found out his school was planning to dedicate a new Torah, but was using a *bimah* (pulpit) in disrepair, Mr. Raskas jumped at the

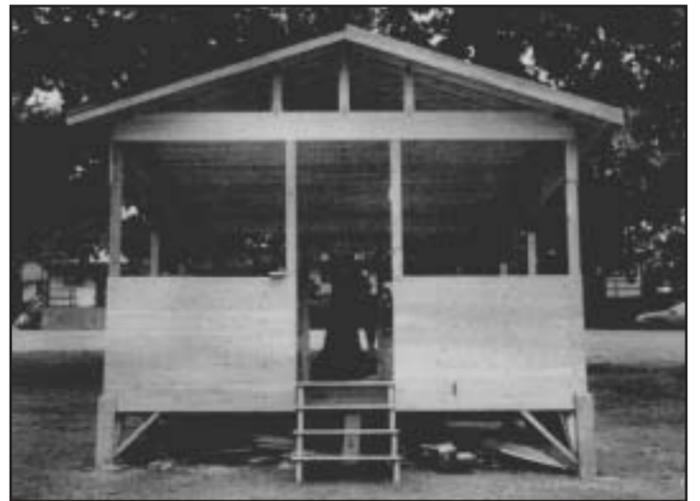
chance to put his skills to use.

Over the course of four months, he and a friend put approximately 150 hours into building a new *bimah*, *aron*, and *shtender* (lectern) for his school, which are still in use.

"Building the *aron* was definitely the most satisfying of all my woodworking projects because it has such a special and holy purpose," he said.

"Every time I return home, I go to pray at my old high school at least once. When I see the *aron*, I am always reminded of the experience and fun [we] had building it."

The following year, Mr. Raskas took his carpentry skills and passion for community service to a new level. He volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, a worldwide organization that builds affordable housing for underprivileged



Mr. Raskas' gazebo at Camp Morasha.

families, helping to construct houses for local families in need of adequate shelter.

"There is really a sense of service and community knowing that you are building up poor neighborhoods and helping to rejuvenate them," he noted.

"Some people actually live in the houses while they are being finished, and it means a lot to them that you are building a home for them."

Mr. Raskas recently returned from a mission to Israel sponsored by Bnei Akiva, a

religious-Zionist youth movement in US and Canada, where he volunteered on an army base building a clubhouse for soldiers and repairing tanks. He is considering majoring in the sciences, although he has an interest in architecture, as well.

"I have always dreamed about what it would be like to move to pre-1948 Israel, cultivate the land, and build the first modern structures," he remarked. "Building houses in Israel would in a sense be fulfilling this dream."

Dr. Lamm goes the extra mile for Mikey Butler's graduation



When President Norman Lamm found out that Mikey Butler, then a senior at Yeshiva College, wasn't well enough to leave his home in Pittsburgh to sign up for the spring semester, he did something unheard of: he took Yeshiva

University to him.

Mr. Butler, a popular and active student who suffers from cystic fibrosis, spent most of last semester hospitalized and was advised by his doctors not to register for this term. Recognizing that the courses Mr. Butler was going to take

were additional credits over and above his degree requirements, President Lamm saw no reason why the student couldn't graduate then and there.

Within 72 hours, he contacted the young man's family, arranged a surprise graduation ceremony at the city's airport, and flew to Pittsburgh to confer the degree on Mr. Butler himself.

"I thought it was just going to be a *bikur cholim*, a 'get well' visit, from Dr. Lamm. In fact, I was worried he had come for precisely the opposite reason—to tell me I had to drop out of this semester," said Mr. Butler, who was vice president of Yeshiva College Student Council in his final year.

President Lamm, meanwhile, arranged to use Pittsburgh Airport's executive

boardroom for the ceremony as he could only be on the ground for 90 minutes, and Mr. Butler's parents gathered together friends and family, some of whom came from as far away as Detroit and New York City.

"I was extremely overwhelmed when I walked into the room and saw all the graduation decorations and all these people there. There were even friends who hadn't been able to travel to Pittsburgh to visit me before," he recalled.

It was the first time in his 25 years as president that Dr. Lamm had personally given out a degree, but it was an honor he thought befitting a student of Mr. Butler's enthusiasm and hard work.

"He is one of the most outstanding young men I have ever met. He never let his health become a handicap. He came along heroically," said Dr. Lamm.

"It was one of the most

awesome experiences of my life, especially at this point, now that my health has taken a turn for the worse. I keep on thinking 'Thank God I don't have to sit for finals!'"

Receiving his bachelor of arts degree was the culmination of years of determination for the fifth-year senior, who was rarely on campus for more than four to six weeks in a row, frequently faxing and emailing papers and tests from his hospital bed and keeping up with his many extracurricular responsibilities.

Mikey Butler's special graduation was a fitting way for the University to pay tribute to a dedicated student.

Editor's note: As we went to press, Mikey Butler underwent a successful lung transplant. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during this difficult time.

Students pay Mikey Butler a 'get well' visit

It was Hanukkah, and nearing the end of the term. There were papers to be written and finals for which to study. But that didn't stop a group of Yeshiva University students from driving six hours each way to see the newly-graduated Mikey Butler, recuperating at home in Pittsburgh.

"We were planning on going out to visit him anyway, but we realized we should do it sooner because he was quite ill," said Michael Davis, a senior at Sy Syms School of Business and president of its Student Council.

Together with Lou Shapp, president of Yeshiva College Student Council, and

Elana Soleimani, president of Stern College for Women Student Council, Mr. Davis gathered a crowd of Mr. Butler's friends for the trip. "They were willing to pay for it with Student Council money, but Rabbi David Hember, dean of student affairs, decided his office would pay," explained Avi Rosman, coordinator of student services, who accompanied the students on the trip.

"We left New York City at five thirty in the morning, arrived in Pittsburgh at around noon, and then left for the drive back at six in the evening. We only got home after midnight, so it was a long day," said Mr. Rosman. "The tone of the visit wasn't focused on him being sick at all. We had a barbecue, lit the Hanukkah candles and sang Hanukkah songs. It was a regular hang-out party," said Mr. Davis.

"The trip was so inspiring. It gave all who participated much *chizuk* (encouragement). Mikey was just overwhelmed with joy," said Mr. Shapp.

2001 medical school acceptances impressive

Undergraduate members of the 2001 graduating class have continued YU's tradition of impressive admission to medical schools, with an acceptance rate that is nearly double the national average.

For the academic year 2000–2001, approximately 66% of YU applicants were accepted, compared to 36% nationwide.

According to a report released by the Office of Pre-Health Advisement, 50 YU students applied to medical school last year—38 from Yeshiva College, 12 from Stern

College for Women; 34 were accepted—26 from YC, 8 from SCW.

Medical schools at which students were accepted include YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Boston University, Columbia University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Sackler School of Medicine (Israel), SUNY/Downstate, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson, and Yale University School of Medicine.

Osteopathic schools were NY College of Osteopathic Medicine and Sackler.

Students who took the MCATs last spring continued a four-year trend of test improvement, as well, the report noted. The average scores were 8.1 in verbal reasoning and 10.2 in the physical sciences. YU students also averaged 10.2 on biological sciences.

Of the 16 students who applied to dental schools, 14 were accepted—10 of the 12 YC students and all 4 SCW students. Overall, this translates into a 94% acceptance rate as compared to 80% last year.

Dental schools at which students were accepted include Boston University, Columbia, Harvard, NYU, Penn State, UMDNJ, and University of Pennsylvania.

'Shemirah' story garners international coverage

The *New York Times* story describing the *shemirah* performed by Stern College students at the NY Medical Examiner's site in "The Nation Challenged" section, has generated extraordinary coverage in the international, national and local media.

The mitzvah (commandment) of *shemirah* stipulates that a Jewish body must never be left unattended and someone must stay with the body from the time of death until burial.

Outlets ranging from the BBC to the Associated Press, the *Jerusalem Post* to PBS, and newspapers around the nation ran *The Times* story or similar reports on this selfless act. The total readership of the coverage thus far exceeds 18,000,000 readers. Also, individuals from all walks of life have made contributions to funds for victims of the World Trade Center tragedy in honor of the students' prayer vigils.

In addition, numerous congregations in the northeast region have requested that the students speak at their synagogues about this special mitzvah to inspire their congregants. Our students have performed a true *kiddush Hashem* (sanctification of God's name) that reflects positively on the entire Jewish community.

It should be noted that many Yeshiva College and RIETS students also played an important role in performing *shemirah* immediately after the tragedy occurred both during the workweek and throughout the High Holy Days. Their efforts were not highlighted in the media but are no less significant and meritorious. All the students continue to maintain their vigil.

Wilf Campus named

continued from page 1

continuing philanthropic support," said University president Dr. Norman Lamm. "The

ported Yeshiva University for many years, made its first Benefactor-level (\$1 million or more) contribution 11 years ago, when it established a major scholarship fund for

of academic achievement—the Wilf Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. This brings their total support for the Campaign to \$12 million, making the Wilf family the third largest Campaign donor.

Joseph Wilf and Leonard Wilf are chief executive officer and president respectively, of Garden Homes. Joseph Wilf's sons, Mark and Zygmunt, are also principals of the firm and active partners in the family's philanthropic activities.

Along with support for Israel, Jewish education as the pathway to leadership in the Jewish community has long been a top priority for the Wilf family in their philanthropic endeavors.

"Jewish education is very close to our hearts," said Joseph, a YU trustee and a member of the Board of Directors of its Sy Syms School of Business.

"Our concern is for the welfare of Yeshiva University and we are enthusiastic about making the campus as attractive and conducive to learning and studying as possible."



Leonard and Joseph Wilf

benefits of this new gift will be evident to all those who study and work on the Wilf Campus."

Joseph Wilf and his late brother, Harry, founded Garden Homes Management, one of the New York-New Jersey area's foremost real estate development building and management firms.

The family, which has sup-

ported Yeshiva University for many years, made its first Benefactor-level (\$1 million or more) contribution 11 years ago, when it established a major scholarship fund for

financially needy and deserving students of the three undergraduate schools. More recently, Joseph and his nephew, Leonard Wilf, gave \$2 million during the early phase of the Campaign for Yeshiva University to create a major scholarship program for undergraduate students at the highest level

Bookshelf

Seventy Faces: Articles of Faith

by Dr. Norman Lamm, president, Yeshiva University

KTAV Publishing House, Inc.

Hoboken, NJ

This two-volume compendium includes 60 of Dr. Lamm's most important "popular" articles, some of which were first delivered as lectures in various forums. The first volume includes chapters on Modern Orthodoxy, faith, community, morality and the family, and education. The second volume examines themes including Halakhah, holidays, the rabbinate, Israel and Zionism, and the Holocaust.

Halakhic Correspondence of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Edited by Haym Soloveitchik, PhD

Merkin Family Professor of Jewish History and Literature, BRGS

Dr. Soloveitchik has published a double-columned folio volume of some 325 pages. He and two associates worked eight years on the project. The book appeared in late August 2001 and is in its second printing.

Stern and YC annual dinners held



Stern College for Women saluted Dr. Norman Lamm for his 25 years as president of YU and honored Jessica M. Bibliowicz, Susan Rosenblatt, and Daryl Roth as Women of Achievement at its annual dinner at the Pierre. From left: appellate lawyer and SCW parent Ms. Rosenblatt, dinner chair and YU trustee Ronnie Heyman, theatrical producer Ms. Roth, and financial services executive Ms. Bibliowicz.



Yeshiva College honored Benefactors Harriet and Joshua L. Muss at its scholarship dinner at the New York Marriot Brooklyn. The event established the Harriet and Joshua L. Muss Scholarship Fund at YC. A record \$1.1 million was raised. From left: Dr. Lamm, Harriet and Joshua L. Muss, Mindy Lamm, and Ruth Muss.

Gauging the importance of art

With a double curriculum, most undergraduate students have little time to seriously pursue an interest in the arts.

This is especially true at the Wilf Campus, where the workload is coupled with a prevailing expectation that young men enter professional careers, and so must prioritize their time accordingly.



Adjunct Associate Professor Golin in the YC art studio.

While there are students who are talented and serious about art, to others it may seem a frivolous pursuit, according to Shoshana Golin, adjunct associate professor of art at Yeshiva College.

But, said the former Stern College for Women art major, in reality art has a great deal to offer students who might not have given the discipline a second thought.

"The majority of students at YU come from a yeshiva day school background where their exposure to art was minimal, so they may not know that there's a way of interacting with the world that's very different yet very wonderful," said Ms. Golin, a professional printmaker and painter.

A graduate of the yeshiva day school system herself, she became serious about pursuing art as a career while a student at SCW.

"Exploring areas that make you think in a different way broadens your overall thinking ability. Art utilizes your physical self and your mental energies at the same time, so it's a more complete way of feeling and perceiving."

Matt Krieger, a history major who graduated in January, called his introduction to the arts "eye-opening." His first encounter was with art history to fulfill a YC requirement, and it spurred him to broaden his horizons through

painting.

"It seemed like something that was fun and interesting. What I found was that it challenged me as much as any other class I've taken here. I learned about color, brush strokes—sometimes I'd be in the studio late at night in order to finish a project."

Mr. Krieger took two semesters of painting and through the medium found that he became more aware of his surroundings. "Walking outside and seeing the way shadows fall, the way colors change at different times of the day—being sensitive to the beauty around you is directly connected to Creation, to God."

YC senior Daniel Galvut signed up for Ms. Golin's drawing class because he was looking to "find" himself culturally. After traveling through Europe and visiting many of its museums, he decided that the hands-on experience of an art class would "help me define myself more articulately."

"For me, art is an escape. There are no limitations, no boundaries. Art helps open people up, helps them to see things from another perspective."

And then there's the satisfaction of seeing a finished piece hanging.

"It's the best feeling," Mr. Krieger said. "The paintings that now hang on the walls of my apartment—I look at them and say, 'that's my work.' It's something I'm really proud of."

"When you're done with a drawing, let's say, you think, wow. I've worked hard and I've really accomplished something," said Mr. Galvut.

Student artwork was on display at the YC/SCW Arts Festival, Feb. 10-19.

Events included gallery presentations, as well as student concerts, prose and poetry readings, and a night of one-act plays.

Schottenstein and Abraham honors programs honing minds

Ask Elie Rosenblatt, a violinist and senior at Yeshiva College, about his favorite kind of music, and he'll launch into an animated discussion about the evolution of klezmer, a long-term interest and by no coincidence the topic of his senior honors thesis.

He is one of a select group of students at Yeshiva University pursuing their passion for knowledge through the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College and the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women.

The senior research project, the culminating requirement of the honors programs, offers students the challenge of mastering a particular field.

"The honors program is a unique opportunity," says Philip Green, a chemistry major whose senior research topic is "The Effects of Angle Strain on Transition Metal Carbene Alkyne Benzannulation."

"You get smaller classes, the best professors, and courses that add new and challenging dimensions to your degree."

Dr. Will Lee, associate professor of English and acting director of the men's honors program, says the senior research project enhances the undergraduate academic environments of Yeshiva University.

"As the senior honors students grow more and more interested in their research, many naturally talk with their friends about it. In the spring,



YU Senior Honors Student, Philip Green

many will present their ideas in a public forum. All students have more opportunities to see the life of the mind at work," he said.

This year, both programs have the highest number of students completing senior research projects since their establishment. About 16 women and 12 men are hoping to submit research projects by the end of this academic year.

"The senior project is the culmination of the honors students' academic career," says Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, assistant professor of English and director of the women's honors program.

"Although the project might seem daunting at first, it ultimately becomes a source of great pride."

The senior research project requires students to apply selectively the methods, critical thinking, and intellectual and communicative skills they

have been developing over the course of the program.

"You learn more about your subject when you have to write about it," explains Michael Helfand, whose topic for the research project is "The Judaic Social Contract and Social Contract Theory."

Students writing research projects work with a faculty mentor, who helps them develop as critical thinkers.

"I found it very beneficial working with my mentor, Dr. Marcel Perlman, professor of psychology, as he is a practicing clinician and has a broad knowledge of the issues in his field," says Lisa Helprin, whose project proposes that there should be a professional code of conduct for the advertising industry in the United States.

Mr. Rosenblatt admits that the research project is tough but adds, "It's easy to underestimate your potential. You can do more than you think."



Dr. Karen Bacon, Stern College for Women dean since 1977, was invested as the inaugural Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean at a ceremony at Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall in November. The deanship was endowed by a gift from Dr. Monique C. Katz, SCW Board of Directors member, and Mordecai D. Katz, YU trustee and chairman, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies Board of Directors. Their gift was made in conjunction with the Mozes S. Schupf Foundation, and also establishes an endowed scholarship fund at the College. Pictured: Mr. and Dr. Katz; Marjorie Diener Blenden, SCW board chairman; and Dean Bacon.

Faculty Profile: Carole Silver

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students' interests and with new trends in the teaching of literature—all the while making sure that students get the basic skills they need.

What has not changed is the quality of our students and the intimacy of the student/faculty relationship.

One of the most important developments within the curriculum is women's studies courses. For example, Dr. Ellen Schrecker [professor of history] and I are team-teaching an honors course this semester called Women, Culture and Society. It's about women's history and women's literature in England, the US, and France during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This is the second time we're teaching it.

The S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program has been important and successful for Stern, combining enriched conventional courses and newer, innovative ones, often

they have been transformed and no longer fit into the mold of women who think they are supposed to keep their hands down and their mouths shut lest they be considered "too brainy."

Another positive outcome is that they network with other women; they are increasingly successful in the business world and follow more diversified career paths.

Tell me about your interest in fairies and Victorian society. Is Tolkien's popularity part of that interest?

Many of the same principles that underlie people's stories of, and belief in, aliens generated the fairy tales of earlier times. Fairies have merely changed color and shape in our era.

Tolkien comes from this tradition of Victorian fairy lore although his tales are based on Scandinavian folklore as well as English sources.

My most recent book, *Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness*, discusses how a given society uses and interprets

do your thesis on William Morris?

I chose Morris because I found the late poetry of Robert Browning unintelligible and there was very little written on Morris. He fascinated me because he was so multifaceted. He was an artist who also designed wallpaper, fabrics, stained glass windows, and furniture.

This was in addition to being a leader of English socialism, a poet, and great thinker. His motto was: "Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." That resonated with me and I was drawn to him.

My dissertation was on his long poem, "The Earthly Paradise." My first book, *The Romance of William Morris*, and three collections of essays were devoted to him.

Mainly, I worked on Morris' poetry and prose fantasies, but that got me interested in his art, design, and political theory. His decorative art is emulated and imitated to this day.

My research led to my



Poet Maya Angelou was the inaugural speaker of the Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence Program. The program brings top scholars, authors, artists, and opinion-shapers to Stern College. Ms. Angelou presented a unique lecture-performance at the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center at the Midtown Campus.



using films, computers, and other media.

The Senior Honors Thesis is the final project for honors students and it can be exciting to work with them on a one-to-one basis.

Do you think women benefit from single-sex education?

Yes. When women raised with traditional values start college, they often do not feel as free [as others] to express themselves in coed classes. A single-sex environment empowers and liberates them. They feel more freedom to develop.

By the time they graduate,

fairy lore and people's fascination with it.

The book actually derived from one of my courses, a class on Myth and Folklore: Relations to Literature. It was one of those rare occasions when one's teaching and research coincide.

Who were your mentors?

Carl Ray Woodring, with whom I did my dissertation at Columbia, Jerome Hamilton Buckley, John Rosenberg, and Marjorie Hope Nicholson, chair of Columbia's English Department. I did take classes with Lionel Trilling, Moses Hadas and others.

Why did you choose to

becoming interested in fields outside of literature and my work has become increasingly multidisciplinary.

I was a cocurator of an exhibit of Morris' art and design in 1992 that was sponsored by the Art Gallery of Ontario and shown all over Canada. As part of the exhibit I helped create a room typical of those decorated by Morris. It was thrilling to have an opportunity to work in areas that complement my expertise in literature.

What books have you read recently?

I just started Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*. I've also been reading Philip Roth's

The Human Stain and Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine*. And, I desperately try to keep up with *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*.

I am very interested in non Western, postcolonial writers from India, Japan, and South Africa including Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Murakami, and Coetzee. I would love to have time to read more non fiction, especially good biographies.

What are some of your hobbies?

Who has time for hobbies? When I can, I walk, cook, and listen to music.

What are some of your accomplishments?

I'm proud of my books, proud of my writing, proud of my teaching. I'm also proud, I think, of having a reasonably happy, contented life. I've been lucky but I've had to work hard to achieve that balance. And, I have a wonderful husband.

He was a South African political activist and did a lot to try to help South Africa gain

independence. He was imprisoned and later went into exile for a time.

By profession, he is an economic historian specializing in the history of labor. He retired last year to write his own book on South Africa since the 1920s.

What are you working on currently?

I am working on a group of nineteenth-century novels written by women who were either South African or visitors to the country from 1860 forward. Oliver Schreiner is probably the only author in that group that people know.

I discovered about twenty interesting novels by her contemporaries—women who were popular in their day but are now forgotten.

I'm working on bringing some of the novels back into print and perhaps doing a book on the novels and novelists. I anticipate that this will be a lengthy project. I'm also involved in another exhibit of Victorian painting, again with a curator in Toronto.

Cardozo Innocence Project launches website

The Innocence Project, a path-breaking pro-bono clinic founded in 1992 at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law that works to free wrongfully convicted prisoners through DNA testing, has opened a window on the criminal justice system. Its postconviction exonerations have spurred the passing of

new legislation, shifting of policies, and a heightened public awareness of issues surrounding wrongful convictions.

It has also helped establish an Innocence Network of similar wrongful conviction clinics in law and journalism schools across the nation.

Now, the Innocence Project

has launched a comprehensive website, innocenceproject.org, that will be a critical aid for defense lawyers and other legal professionals, for prisoners and their families, for the media, and for individuals interested in the subject.

"The site will be a technological springboard for our continuing work and the

expansion of the Innocence Network," according to Prof. Barry Scheck, project codirector with Prof. Peter Neufeld. "It will create synergy amongst the various organizations that share two important goals: the correction and the prevention of wrongful convictions."

By March 2002, 102 prisoners in the US have been exon-

erated through postconviction DNA testing, 11 off death row. More than half of these cases were handled by Cardozo's Innocence Project, worked on by Cardozo law students and the clinic cofounders. The clinic has generated legislative reforms and helped focus the legal community on efforts to prevent the miscarriage of justice and the cause of wrongful convictions.

Einstein Roundup

- Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine have developed a method of gene therapy that corrects sickle cell disease in mice, suggesting future therapies designed to treat the genetic disease in humans. The new method is described in the December 14 issue of the journal *Science*.
 - Lupus, an incurable autoimmune disease that destroys the central nervous system, has remained an unexplainable mystery for decades. Now, scientists at Einstein, led by Betty A. Diamond, MD, chief of the division of rheumatology, report that they may have identified exactly how lupus antibodies kill nerve cells. The discovery eventually may lead to new therapies for the disease, the Einstein researchers said.
 - Dr. Diamond recently received the Distinguished Investigator Award of the American College of Rheumatology, which is given annually to a senior scientist who is making significant contributions to the field of rheumatology.
 - The US Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program recently awarded a \$626,000 grant to Robert Burk, MD, professor of epidemiology and social medicine and a leading medical geneticist at Einstein, for his ongoing study to identify genetic markers that might increase a man's risk for developing prostate cancer.
- For nearly three years, Dr. Burk and his colleagues have been studying DNA samples from Jewish men. "Studying a homogeneous group such as Jews, Amish, or French Acadians is helpful because fewer genetic mutations have occurred within such populations," he explained.

Rabbi Horwitz is inaugural Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz Professor of Talmud

Rabbi David Horwitz, a rosh yeshiva (professor of Talmud) in the undergraduate Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP), has been named inaugural occupant of the Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz Chair in Talmud.

Rabbinic Alumni, the alumni association of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, has made a \$1 million gift to establish the chair at RIETS.

Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz, known as the Suvalker Rav, was a revered rabbinic sage and long-time rosh yeshiva at RIETS. He first joined the seminary in 1944 and was the occupant of the I. Meier and Henrietta Segals Chair in Talmud.

He taught thousands of students and was beloved by them. A world-recognized authority on Halakhah, elder statesman among rabbinic leaders, and esteemed communal leader, he died at age 86 in 1993.

Rabbi Horwitz, an alumnus of YU High Schools, Yeshiva College, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies—where he was an Irving and Helen Spatz Scholar—and RIETS, where he was a fellow of the Gruss Kollel Elyon, gives a *shiur* (discourse) at MYP.

In 1997, he was recipient of YU's 13th Annual Moshe and Madelaine Baumel Judaic Faculty Incentive Award, which honors outstanding Jewish studies educators at the University and RIETS.

"He is one of the young brilliant *talmidei chachamim* [scholars] with broad Jewish scholarly sweep who help to assure RIETS' Torah primacy now and in the future," according to Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Max and Marion Grill Dean at RIETS.

In November, a plaque was dedicated in memory of Rabbi Lifshitz in the main *beit midrash* (study hall) of Zysman Hall, where Rabbi Lifshitz spent much of his time.



RABBI HORWITZ

Alumni Rabbi Berel Rosensweig, adjunct professor of Jewish history at Yeshiva College, and Rabbi Max Schreier were instrumental in securing the funds to establish the gift.

The large gathering included faculty, students, Rabbinic Alumni, and members of Rabbi Lifshitz' family. The program included reminiscences of Rabbi Lifshitz by RIETS rosh hayeshiva (president) Rabbi Norman Lamm and Rabbi Charlop, and a *shiur* by Rabbi Horwitz.

New Beker program provides vital services to schools



Dr. Silver (left), program coordinator, is assisted by Miryam Benovitz (center), a doctoral student at FGS.

A new program at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology is providing psychological services to an under-served segment of Hebrew day school children, families, and teachers in New York City.

The program was made possible by Benefactor-level gift from Dr. Jayne G. Beker, YU trustee and chairman of Ferkauf's Board of Governors, and her husband Harvey Beker.

Beth Jacob Beth Miriam in the Bronx is the first school to participate in the program, according to Dr. Abraham Givner, Silverstein Professor of School Psychology at Ferkauf.

"The school was eager to expand its psychological services and offered an opportuni-

ty to serve a multicultural population," Dr. Givner said.

Many of the boys and girls at Beth Jacob Beth Miriam are Bukharian, from families that emigrated from parts of the former Soviet Union bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Beker Program for Psychological Services in Schools is under the leadership of Dr. Judith Silver, the full-time program coordinator and a Ferkauf graduate with prior Hebrew day school experience as a school psychologist.

She is assisted by Miryam Benovitz, a fifth-year doctoral student at Ferkauf and a certified school psychologist, who is the full-time intern at the school.

"Several years ago, we began thinking about ways to

help strengthen psychological services in the Jewish community," said Dr. Beker, who earned her masters and doctoral degrees at Ferkauf and is a psychologist in private practice and at the Bank Street College of Education.

"We came up with the idea that Ferkauf could serve as a bridge to provide psychological services to some of the needier schools in the Orthodox community."

"By next September," Dr. Givner said, "we plan to add a second school to the program. We also are exploring linkages with Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College that will enable undergraduates to serve as mentors or big brothers and sisters."

High school students raise \$1,000 for heroes and fallen alumnus

Students of The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy-Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MSTA) gathered in November to demonstrate their gratitude for the heroic efforts of New York's firefighters and police officers following the World Trade Center tragedy.

MSTA held a ceremony at the Wilf Campus to applaud New York's bravest and finest and to honor the memory of Mark L. Rosenberg, a 1992

alumnus who perished on the 96th floor of the Trade Center's north tower (see *We Mourn*, p. 4).

Students raised \$1,000, which was donated equally to the Widows' and Orphans' Funds of the New York Fire Department and the New York Police Department in memory of Mr. Rosenberg, and presented the firefighters in attendance with a plaque of appreciation signed by all MSTA students.



Yossy Gev all-time leading scorer at Yeshiva

Flashbulbs popped, the crowd rose to their feet, and the noise built to a crescendo at the Max Stern Athletic Center as Yossy Gev received a pass from Eli Hami in transition and scored the way he had done 1806 times before—with power and finesse.

Backing in against the larger Istvan Nyilas, Gev spun around in a power move and kissed the ball off the glass to pass Ayal Hod's 13-year-old all-time scoring record at Yeshiva University.

Immediately after scoring the record-breaking basket, Gev pumped his fists and waved his arms in the air, clearly euphoric at the dramatic moment. At the next stoppage of play, Gev was immediately surrounded by all his teammates as he hugged his coach, Dr. Jonathan Halpert.

During a brief ceremony before the game continued, Hod, who was in attendance, presented Gev with a ball inscribed with the words, "Yeshiva University All-Time Leading Scorer Yossy Gev."

With the record safely in



Ayal Hod congratulates Yossy Gev on breaking his 13-year-old all-time scoring record.

hand, the Maccabees turned their attention to the game, which they desperately needed, yet almost let slip away. Having started the evening in 5th place in a tight Skyline Conference playoff race, the Macs would move up to 3rd with a win against the Stevens

Tech Ducks, but almost certainly lose their first-round home game with a loss.

Using a pair of 14-6 and 7-2 runs and terrific shooting by Eli Hami (17 points), the Macs jumped out to an early 8 point lead, but were unable to hold it, going into halftime

with a slim 31-30 advantage.

Upset at the lack of offensive rhythm, a distraught Halpert insisted that the Macs needed to "execute better on offense" and "control the big-guys inside" on defense.

The Macs seemed to heed their coach's instructions—at least at first. Coming out in a new defense, a 3-1-1, the Macs played very aggressively, jumping out to a 12-2 run. After forcing a bad shot on the Ducks first possession, the Macs scored at the other end when Zev Hendles grabbed two offensive rebounds in a row and converted the put-back on the second one.

Hendles (7 points, 13 rebounds) would score again on a jump shot off a steal by Hami, and another steal by Hami led to a Gev bucket. On the ensuing possession, Hami fed Gev for a three-pointer in front of his own bench. After two free throws by John Almonte, Jack Yulzary (9 points) drained a three-pointer from the same spot as Gev (28 points) to give the Macs a 43-32 lead.

The lead grew to as much as 15 points, but as soon as Gev broke the scoring record, the Macs fell back into their first-half woes, unable to prevent the ball from being passed into

the low post.

The Ducks began to pound the ball each possession down to Nyilas (19 points), and the Macs were helpless to stop him. Over a short span of about four minutes, the lead shrunk to four points. But Hami ended any chance of a comeback, hitting two free throws with 1:24 left, and converting the conventional three-point play on the following possession with 59 seconds left.

It would give the Macs a much-needed victory, evening their record at 11-11, and boosting them to 8-6 in the Skyline Conference.

But the story of the night was Gev. A native of Rehovot, Israel, the 6'4" power-forward has earned the respect of his coaches and teammates for his character off the court as much as his prowess on it.

"He had a spectacular night, and he's had a spectacular career," Halpert said after the game. "He's a great player; more significantly, he's a great individual."

When asked for some thoughts on the game, an ecstatic Gev responded, "can I scream?"

"First of all, it's a big win, before my achievement. But it's an honor to hold this record."

Women's tennis team captures awards in 2001 Skyline Conference

Winding up a successful season, the Stern College for Women tennis team earned several honors at the 2001 Skyline Conference Women's Tennis Awards.

The Lady Maccabees captured the Sportsmanship Award, given to a team that demonstrates respect for fellow players and opponents and celebrates group spirit. Coach Heidi Nathan said, "I'm glad the coaches saw that our girls are honest and commended them for that."

Individual accolades in-

cluded Skyline Conference First-Team All-Star honors to sophomore Rachel Guimoye and Skyline Conference Second-Team All-Star honors to senior Shoshana Penstein and junior Randi Schwartz.

Ms. Guimoye finished the conference with a 5-1 record, playing in the team's number-one and number-two positions. Her overall season record in singles was 6-1. Ms. Penstein scored 3-1 in the conference and her season record in singles was 4-1. Ms. Schwartz, playing in the number-one position, finished 3-2

at the conference and ranked 4-2 overall in singles.

This year's team is comprised of nine women, six who returned from last year and three new players. "The women keep getting better every year and the longer they stay with the team, the more they improve," Coach Nathan said. The individual awardees are all second-year members.

The Sportsmanship Award and All-Stars were chosen by Skyline Conference coaches. Awards will be presented at a dinner in May 2002.



Lady Macs win Shabazz tournament

The Stern College for Women basketball team, newcomers to the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference, took top honors at the Third Annual Betty Shabazz Memorial Tournament hosted by Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, December 8-9.

Over the course of a tough two-day tournament, the Lady Macs played Medgar Evers and the College of New Rochelle. Coached by Dr. Karen Green, Yeshiva defeated the College of New Rochelle by a score of 87-71 on the first day of the tournament. First-year team member Shayna Greenwald scored 31 points and second-year team member Lisa Misher scored 21 points.

The second day, Yeshiva won the tournament championship by defeating Medgar Evers with a score of 71-66 in an exciting finish. Ms. Greenwald was named tournament MVP, and captain and third-year team member Stephanie Aaron was named to the All Tournament Team. Ms. Aaron said, "All the women displayed their potential and capability to play well and excel."

Coach Green noted the women's increased high level of performance, which enabled the Lady Macs to enter the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference for the first time this year. "The team is demonstrating excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and aggressive play, which has resulted in our success this season," she said.

Now hear this: Broadcasting Macs games on the Internet

Thanks to a generous grant by the President's Circle, a group of undergraduate alumni that helps advance undergraduate programs, this season Macs basketball marked an important milestone when its December 27 game was broadcast live over the Internet.

The gift, to purchase needed equipment, also makes possible Internet broadcast of the Macs' remaining season home games, perhaps including post-season tournament competition, with play-by-play, pre-game, half-time, and post-game shows hosted by students.

The project was the initiative of seniors Adam Cohen and Avi Bloom, whose tireless efforts were rewarded when the President's Circle agreed to provide \$4,500 and the YU administration offered space on the University's official website. During the games, Mr. Cohen calls the play-by-play and Mr. Bloom contributes color commentary.

The broadcasts can be found on the University's official website, www.yu.edu/athletics. The last scheduled home game was February 13. The Red Sarachek Memorial Basketball Tournament, for which the University is negotiating broadcast privileges, is scheduled for March 14-18.

Jonny Halpert: Coach of 'Team Torah Umadda'



Mention Yeshiva University and collegiate basketball and one name instantly comes to mind: Jonny Halpert.

Dr. Jonathan Halpert began his 30th season this past November as coach of the Maccabees, the renowned Yeshiva College basketball team.

Only seven men's basketball coaches in the NCAA's Division III schools (no athletic scholarships) have coached longer than Dr. Halpert. However, Coach Halpert has the distinction of having coached all of his 30 years at one school—YU.

Succeeds Sarachek

In 1972, at the tender age of 26, Dr. Halpert succeeded the legendary coach, Bernard "Red" Sarachek, only six years after having captained the Maccabees during the 1965-66 season.

"When Red tapped me for the coaching position, I was very excited to be representing YU and the Jewish community," Dr. Halpert said. "It was a dream come true for me."

"I felt he had a love of the game, and that showed in the three or four years he stayed with me," said mythical coach "Red" Sarachek. "Jonny is a wonderful man, and an excel-

lent coach as proven by his record," a high compliment from this seasoned veteran.

"He's an excellent student of the game and a tremendous asset for YU and for Judaism."

For decades, Dr. Halpert had to scrounge around the metropolitan area to find locations where the Maccabees could hone their court skills—Xaverian in Brooklyn, St. Helena's in The Bronx, or The Fashion Institute of Technology. With the opening of the Max Stern Athletic Center at the (then) Main Campus in 1985, the team finally had a place to call its own.

"The building of the gym, a first-class facility, enhanced students' perception of themselves as well as their image of the school," said Dr. Halpert.

The gym also influenced perspective athletes and was a factor in recruiting good athletes to YC.

Overcoming obstacles

YC players have had to contend with other limitations as well.

At YU, basketball is an extracurricular activity given the students' rigorous dual program. But these pressures have not prevented the team from racking up wins. In fact, the 1986-87 season was the only non-winning season

since the opening of the gym.

Coach Halpert's legion of acolytes does not have to be coaxed into singing his praises.

"For me, Coach Halpert's leadership has meaning on several levels," said Dave Kufeld (YC '80) a star center from 1976 to 1980 who was drafted by the Portland Trailblazers in 1980.

"On the basketball level, he transcended the teachings of Red Sarachek with his own strategies that provided his players with a strong fundamental base in the game."

Mr. Kufeld emphasized that the lessons he learned from Coach Halpert also inspired him off the court.

"His perspective on the importance of basketball in the greater scheme of life is what truly sets him apart from other coaches. I genuinely believe he cares about each player more than just about his wins or losses."

"For me Coach Halpert has been like a father figure since I arrived here from Israel three and a half years ago," said Yossi Gev, captain of the current team.

Dr. Halpert's colleagues in the close-knit collegiate coaching community also hold him in high regard.

Renowned Hall of Famer Lou Carnesecca dubbed Dr. Halpert "a great man, great teacher, and a great coach."

His colleagues at Yeshiva College echo Mr. Carnesecca's sentiments.

"One of the attractions for coming to YU for me was that I would have the opportunity to work with Dr. Halpert," said Dr. Richard Zerneck, YU director of athletics. "After four years, I am even more impressed with his expertise as a game coach, his ability to overcome obstacles, and his extraordinary caring about young people."

A family affair

Dr. Halpert's remarkable affiliation with YU is intergenerational. His father, Max, was a graduate of Teachers Institute for Men (renamed Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies in 1982); YC; Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.

Dr. Halpert senior worked for all three presidents of Yeshiva University as a fundraiser for 40 years, including stints as a Yiddish and Hebrew translator at Revel during his high school and undergraduate days.

Currently Dr. Halpert's son, Rafi, a YC sophomore, plays for his father. "There has been a Halpert at YU for over seventy years," Dr. Halpert summed up proudly.

Family friend, former Maccabees assistant coach, and Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History Jeffrey Gurock said, "The Halperts are the quintessential YU family and he is coach of Team Torah Umadda."

"All five of Dr. Halpert's children are graduates of our high school, two are graduates of our undergraduate schools, his brother, Danny, is a graduate of YC, and Dr. Halpert is a graduate of three of our schools including Ferkauf [PhD '78]."

"Making us proud"

At a pre-home opener ceremony organized by basketball alumni, President Lamm presented Coach Halpert with a commemorative plaque. Dr. Lamm affirmed the value of physical fitness within Jewish tradition as documented in scholarly writings from the Rambam to Rav Kook when done with concern for civility and good sportsmanship.

"I want to express my appreciation to you, Jonny, on behalf of the students of YU and the entire University community, for your thirty years of

coaching and leadership," he said. "Your Maccabees continue to make us all proud."

Grateful for the opportunity

Looking back, Coach Halpert expressed satisfaction with his accomplishments and is grateful for the opportunities he has been afforded.

"I want to be known as a good coach and I'm proud that we've had winning seasons for sixteen out of seventeen years and have gone to four ECAA post-season tournaments."

"I've coached over one hundred and seventy-five kids, among the best of YU. They succeeded in their studies while playing basketball and went on to be prominent members of their communities throughout the country."

Enabling dreams

"What I've been trying to do here is give kids an opportunity to dream a little bit. They could succeed in school, play basketball, and not only maintain their Jewish identity, but actually represent the Jewish community. In the eyes of the world, Yeshiva University represents the Jewish community in the realm of college basketball."

Dr. Halpert was awarded the College Basketball Officials Association Schoenfeld Award in 1981 and again in 1997. He received the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association "Good Guy" Award in 1998. In 1999, he was named Skyline Conference Coach of the Year.

Off the court, for the last 14 years Dr. Halpert has been chief executive officer of Camelot Community Resident Program, an agency that provides group homes for severely retarded adults.

As we went to press, Coach Halpert won his 300th career game when his son, Rafi, scored a three-point shot that took the game into overtime. Mazal tov!

Spotlight on Alumni: Twice Blessed

Mark Sokolow

Mark Sokolow (YC '79, CSL '82) has been twice blessed. On September 11 he was on the 38th floor of the World Trade Center's south tower when the first airplane struck the adjacent building. An attorney and partner in the law firm of Thatcher Proffitt and Wood, he dashed out of his building to safety.

On January 27, he was saved again when he and his

family were shopping at a shoe store on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road when a terrorist blew herself up yards away, killing one other person and injuring at least 150. He was knocked off his feet and sprayed with shrapnel on the right side of his body. His wife, Rena, suffered a fractured leg, and two of their three daughters also sustained injuries, none life-threatening.

"We were waiting outside on the sidewalk to meet a rela-

tive when a powerful blast knocked us apart," Mr. Sokolow said. "A huge puff [of smoke] filled the air. I saw things flying up and over. I must have been knocked down."

Later, Mr. Sokolow was interviewed on TV from his hospital bed. He said it was important for Jews to visit Israel despite the threat of terror.



Dr. David J. Schnall delivered a public lecture based on his latest book, *By the Sweat of Your Brow: Reflections on Work and the Workplace in Classical Jewish Thought*, in conjunction with the opening of the annual Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) Seferim Sale at Yeshiva University. The third annual lecture, presented by the YC Alumni Association, the Azrieli Alumni Steering Committee, SOY, and the undergraduate student organizations, took place Sunday, February 3. The sale opened afterward.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Top corporate leaders offer Kukin seminars at Sy Syms School

Where can students meet New York's top executives and hear first-hand insights about their corporate ventures?

Every Friday morning from February to May, the Sy Syms School of Business undergraduate course, Contemporary Problems in Business, features the success stories of industry's finest.

The classes are a free exchange of ideas with students. The topics cover issues, challenges, and initiatives that have been instrumental in the speakers' success and their thoughts on what qualities help shape future leaders.

Each Friday from 10 am to 12:30 pm, starting February 1 in Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall at the Midtown Campus, a distinguished business leader presents issues and challenges confronting his or her industry.

Students receive three credits for this entrepreneurial seminar course, a vital compo-



JESSICA BIBLIOWICZ

nent of SSSB's Rennert Entrepreneurial Institute, endowed by Ira L. Rennert, a noted Jewish communal leader and chairman and CEO of The Renco Group, a private holding company for industrial product companies.

The program, in its eighth year, known as the Doris and Dr. Ira Kukin Entrepreneurial Lecture Series, is named for its Benefactors. Dr. Kukin, vice



RUSS BERRIE

chairman of Yeshiva University's Board of Trustees, was a founding member of SSSB's Board of Directors, and his wife is a member of the Stern College for Women Board of Directors. Dr. Kukin is founder of Apollo Technologies International Corp. in Livingston, NJ.

Coordinated by Dr. Lawrence Bellman, assistant professor of marketing and management, the program is one



STEVEN BERNSTEIN

of only a handful of its kind in the nation at the undergraduate level. "The willingness of key executives of our country's leading industries to interact with our business undergraduates indicates the value they place on the preparation of tomorrow's captains of industry," said Dr. Bellman.

Steven E. Bernstein, chairman, SBA Communications, kicked off the series on Feb-

ruary 1, followed by Matthew Pittensky, Blackboard Inc. chairman on February 8, and Russ Berrie, CEO, Russ Berrie Inc. on February 15. Dates for the other speakers, subject to change, are as follows:

- Nurit Amdur, CEO, Alex Toys—March 1
- Aaron Dobrinsky, CEO, GoAmerica—March 8
- Erel Margalit, managing partner, Jerusalem Venture Capital Fund—March 14
- Nina McLemore, president, Regent Capital Partners—March 15
- David Neeleman, CEO, JetBlue Airways—April 12
- Jessica Bibliowicz, president, National Financial Partners—April 19
- Mary Farrell, managing director and senior investment strategist, UBS Warburg—April 26
- Richard Grasso, chairman, New York Stock Exchange—May 3