

YU Today

VOLUME 8 NO. 4

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY • FALL 2002

Stanton Elected New Board Chairman

- His support has been instrumental in strengthening University's financial base



Ronald P. Stanton, chairman and chief executive officer of Transammonia, Inc., was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University at the Board's annual meeting on September 18. He succeeds Robert M. Beren, the Board's chairman for the past two years, who was elected chairman emeritus.

Dr. Ira Kukin, Sy Syms, and Morry Weiss were reelected as vice chairmen of the Board. Ludwig Bravmann, the Board's

former treasurer, was also elected as vice chairman, and Bernard L. Madoff was elected to succeed Mr. Bravmann as treasurer.

Mr. Stanton joined the University's Board in 1976, the same year that Dr. Norman Lamm began his tenure as president of YU. Over the past quarter century, the two leaders have worked closely together on establishing a firm financial base for the institution, building its endowment, expanding courses and programs at the various schools and affiliates, modernizing existing facilities and acquiring new ones, and strengthening overall academic excellence.

In 1992, Mr. Stanton was elected vice chairman of the Board. More recently, he played a pivotal role along with Mr. Beren, Mr. Syms, Executive Committee Chairman Burton P. Resnick, and other YU Trustees in the development of the University's \$400 million capital campaign and served as chairman of the Campaign Cabinet. Thus far

For a full text of Ronald Stanton's acceptance speech to the Board, see p.3

\$337 million has been raised.

The campaign was officially launched in May 2001, and Mr. Stanton and his wife, Mei, were among its earliest and most generous contributors. Their most recent gift, to establish a revolving capital fund, is one of the campaign's most innovative initiatives. The gift gives YU the resources and flexibility to pursue opportunities to enhance facilities and acquire new ones as space needs arise. Assets drawn from the fund are replenished as subsequent contributions support facilities.

A previous gift from Mr. Stanton endowed the Hedi Steinberg Library on YU's Midtown Campus in memory of his mother. Mrs. Steinberg was a social worker with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society for 25 years.

Other gifts include: The

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US News 2003 Rankings

For the seventh consecutive year, Yeshiva University has been ranked one of America's top universities in the annual *US News & World Report* survey. The 2003 survey ranked YU in 40th place, up one place from last year.

The national university category includes YU along with 249 other schools. Yeshiva's ranking places it among the top 50 schools that comprise "tier one." Other schools in tier one include Columbia, Harvard, MIT, NYU, Princeton, and Yale.

"Our outstanding faculty and students, our dedicated deans, administrators, and trustees play a key role in this continuing recognition of the excellence of our academic programs," said President Norman Lamm.

Factors that account for YU's steady rise in the rankings in recent years include a high rate of retention and graduation among students, high SAT scores, strong faculty resources, availability of faculty to students due to small class size, and strong financial resources.

This year *US News* changed the names of the ranking categories to better reflect their missions. Colleges and universities are divided into four categories: national universities-doctoral; national liberal arts colleges-bachelor's; universities-master's, and comprehensive colleges-bachelor's. The national universities-doctoral offers a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and PhD degrees, and emphasize faculty research.

Schools are categorized primarily by mission and, in some cases, region, and data is gathered from each school on up to 16 indicators of academic excellence. The ranking formula gives greatest weight to reputation that ultimately impacts on the success of graduates in gaining entry to top graduate programs.

The complete rankings are available on US News Online at <http://www.usnews.com>.

Scheiber Scholarship Program Begins

- Opens Doors For New Generation of Students

The second largest gift in Yeshiva University history, the Anne Scheiber Scholarship and Loan Fund, has recently been made available for select students at Stern College for Women and students attending YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

The \$22 million bequest—now \$36 million following several years of investments during probate—will assure significant scholarship assistance for quality higher education unequalled anywhere in the world.

Lauding her generosity, President Norman Lamm noted, "Anne Scheiber lived to be 101, and her spirit will live forever at Yeshiva University. Her enduring legacy will be the countless generations of Jewish women who, thanks to her magnanimity, will assume positions of leadership in their chosen fields and the community at large. Her memory will surely be a blessing."

In keeping with Ms. Scheiber's wishes, an endowment was established to fund scholarships and interest-free

loans for students enrolled at Stern College who have high scholastic standing, demonstrate financial need, plan to study medicine, physical and natural sciences, and to be in a "helping profession." Graduates of Stern College and those attending Albert Einstein College of Medicine are also eligible, as are Yeshiva College students under certain circumstances.

"The Anne Scheiber Scholarships represent something

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Rangoon native arrives at YU
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NEW TEAM

Student Services welcomes familiar faces
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FACULTY NEWS

J. David Bleich, PhD, Herbert and Florence Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics, CSL, spoke on "Stem Cell Research" at the Twelfth Biennial Conference on Jewish Law, Jerusalem.

Jerome A. Chanes, MSW, SCW and WSSW adjunct professor, authored chapters, "Who Does What? Jewish Advocacy and Jewish 'Interest'," in Sandy Maisel and Ira Forman, Eds., *Jews in American Politics* and "'America is Different!': Reform Judaism and American Pluralism," in Dana Kaplan, Ed., *Platforms and Prayerbooks: A History of Reform Judaism in America*. He delivered a seminar, "The Changing Contours of Jewish Public Policy," Columbia University seminars; a lecture, "Rav Soloveitchik, Revisionism, and Modern Orthodoxy," at a "Yom Iyun on Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik"; and a seminar, "Redefining the Protocols for Measuring Anti-Semitism," to the Graduate Faculties, Yale University. He lectured at Oxford University on "anti-Semitism and Jewish Security in America and Europe: Lessons for the Post-Holocaust Generation," and was a scholar-in-residence, College of Charleston.

Yaakov Elman, PhD, associate professor of Jewish studies, has been made a Harry Starr Fellow in Judaica in the field of modern biblical scholarship and Jewish belief, 2002-03, at Harvard University. He has been elected a member of the board of directors, the Association for Jewish Studies.

Mareleyn Schneider, PhD, associate professor of sociology, edited *Wisdom of the Heart: Expanding the Jewish Mind—Learning Through Art Projects*, a teaching resource published by the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) and distributed to 4,000 Jewish educators across North America.

Joshua A. Fishman, PhD, Distinguished University Research Professor Emeritus of Social Sciences, FGS, contributed an article, "The Primordialist/Constructivist Debate Today," to *Ethnonationalism in the Contemporary World: Walker Connor and the Study of Nationalism*, edited by Daniele Conversi. He also spoke on "The Languages of Judaism" at the international colloquium "Sociology of Language and Religion," Roehampton University of Surrey.

Samuel Schneider, PhD, associate professor of Hebrew and chair of the department of Hebrew language and literature, published "A Partisan in the Ghettos of Western Galicia," a review in Hebrew of Sara Rosen's book about Itka Ginot's ordeals in the Bochnia ghetto, in *Hadoar*, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

Robert J. Greenberg, JD, LL.M., assistant professor of business law, SSSB, presented a paper, "Political Questions, Judicial Review, and the

Supreme Court of the United States—From Alexander Hamilton to Alexander Bickel," at the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business, Vancouver. Rabbi Greenberg also presented "An Analysis of Different Business Law Topics and Principles According to American Law and Jewish Law," Cong. Schara Tzedek, Vancouver.

Cantor Joseph Malovany, Distinguished Professor of Liturgical Music, BSJM, was named Honorary Chief Cantor of Vilnius' Synagogue by the Jewish Religious Community of Vilnius. Cantor Malovany is the cantor of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. The Jewish Religious Community of Vilnius is "the perpetuator of the glorious traditions of the pre-war community." Many revered cantors served the synagogues in Vilna, called the Jerusalem of Lithuania before World War II.

Rabbi Hershel Schachter, MHL, rosh yeshiva and Nathan and Vivian Fink Distinguished Professor of Talmud, spoke at the July conference of the Rabbinical Council of America, Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel, Israel.

David Schnall, PhD, AGS dean, was scholar-in-residence, Shaarei Shomayim Cong., Toronto. Also, he spoke on "Religion and Healing in Jewish Tradition," Maimonides Society, Tampa, FL; "Caring and Community in Classic Jewish Text," Jewish Federation of Central NJ; "Managing Relationships in Jewish Education," Flatbush Yeshiva; "The Future of Jewish Education," Hebrew Academy of Nassau County, where he also ran a training workshop for senior administrative staff; and "Staff Resiliency in Jewish Education," Sinai School.

Peninnah Schram, MA, associate professor of speech and drama, was Shabbat Scholar for Families at the annual Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education Conference, held in August. Her topic, one of several keynote presentations, was "Traveling in Time: Sharing Our Family Stories." She and singer/guitarist, Gerard Edery, performed a program of stories and songs of the Jewish people at the annual American Conference of Cantors.

Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky, MS, was appointed a rosh yeshiva at YU's undergraduate Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies at the Wilf Campus. For the past five years he has taught in the Stone Beit Midrash Program.

Joshua Zimmerman, PhD, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professor in Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies, was named an adjunct fellow at the Advanced Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Gersion Appel, PhD, professor emeritus, Jewish philosophy, authored an introduction and "Crit-

ical Notes" in the recently published second edition of *Sefer Ha-Neyar*, a 13th-century code of Jewish law. A halakhic compendium covering a full range of Jewish law from Talmudic, Gaonic, and post-Gaonic sources, it was edited from rare manuscripts. Dr. Appel is former chairman, department of philosophy, SCW, and adjunct professor of Hebrew studies, NYU.

Arthur Hyman, PhD, Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy and dean, BRGS, this past summer delivered the annual Aquinas Lecture on "Eschatological Themes in Medieval Jewish Philosophy" at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He gave a similar talk at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. His summer activities also included participation in the Seventh Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies in Amsterdam, where he lectured on Jewish philosophy.

PEOPLE

Elinor Grumet, Hedi Steinberg Library reference librarian, compiled a bibliography about Rabbi Saul Lieberman that was included in the recently published book *Saul Lieberman (1898-1983), Talmudic Scholar and Classicist*, edited by Prof. Meir Lubetski.

David J. Azrieli, Benefactor, YU trustee, and AGS director, was honored by State of Israel Bonds at a reception in Montreal that featured special guest Ambassador Alon Pinkas, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Bernard Pittinsky, director of finance, recently retired after 27 years of service to the University.

Congratulations

Eleanor Chiger, YUM office manager, and husband Rabbi Jacob on the bat mitzvah of granddaughter Eta Rachel, daughter of Aaron and Shifra (SCW'87) Siegel; and on the birth of grandson Michael Jeremy (Reuvain Moshe Menachem) to parents Adam (CSL'89) and Tzippi (YH'87, WSSW'93) Rosen.

Judah Feinerman YC'47, R'49, YU and RIETS trustee and former RIETS Board chair, and wife Shepsie on the birth of great grandson Zvi Shmuel to Ephraim and Zahava Moss.

Howard Jonas, YC Board member, and wife Debbie on the birth of a daughter, Miriam Batya, their ninth child.

Harriet Levitt, YUHS for Boys English department chair, and husband Dan, a YU Master Builder, on the marriage of daughter Jonina to Norman Steiner.

Stuart Razin, YC'63, FGS'68, national director, Canadian Friends of

YU, and wife Marsha on the birth of granddaughter Rachel Tzofia, born to children Ely and Zippora (Feuer) Razin SCW'95.

Marlene Schiffman, Judaica cataloguer at Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica, and husband Lawrence Schiffman, professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU, on the marriage of Leah, a YUHS alumna, to David, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Samson Helfgott and a PhD student at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.

We Mourn

Dr. Meyer Feldblum YC '51, RIETS '51, BRGS '58, former university professor of Talmudic literature, BRGS, and noted Talmudic scholar, in Israel.

David Goldman, founding member, WSSW Board of Governors. He and his late wife, Muriel, were YU Guardians who supported many initiatives at WSSW and established the Muriel and David Goldman Scholarship Fund.

Ghity Lindenbaum Stern, wife of the late Nathan Lindenbaum and

the late Max Stern, who served for 35 years as the University Board of Trustees' vice chairman and with whom she was a Benefactor. Stern College for Women was established in 1954 with a major gift from Mr. Stern in memory of his parents. Mr. Stern and four others made the initial gifts that launched the campaign to found Albert Einstein College of Medicine, on whose board he served. Mrs. Stern, former honorary chairman of the SCW Board of Directors, philanthropist, and communal leader in the US and Israel, received an honorary degree from YU in 1987.

Condolences to

Rabbi Yosef Fridman, director of operations, Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem, on the loss of his father, Aaron.

Rabbi Manfred Fulda, associate professor of Talmud, on the loss of his sister.

Steven Major, YC alumnus and Board member, on the loss of his father, Dr. William Major.

CORRECTION: The scholarship established by Benefactor Benjamin Teitel was created in memory of his mother, Esther Teitel, not his wife as was incorrectly mentioned in the picture caption on page 12 of *YU Today*, Summer 2002.

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY TODAY

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TIMELINE: PAST CHAIRS OF YU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1930-53	1953-77	1977-89	1989-93	1993	1993-2000	2000-2002	2002-present
Hon. Samuel Levy	Max J. Etra chairman emeritus 1977-87	Hon. Herbert Tenzer chairman emeritus 1989-93	Ludwig Jesselson	Hermann Merkin acting chairman April 4-June 14	David S. Gottesman	Robert M. Beren	Ronald P. Stanton

Board Chairman*continued from page 1*

Sephardic Reference Room in memory of Judge Edgar J. Nathan II and Ivan Salomon, of blessed memory; The Beatrice Kern Library at Samuel H. Wang-YUHS for Girls memorializing his maternal grandmother; and the Yad Belkin Room in Gottesman Library in memory of Dr. Samuel Belkin.

Mr. Stanton was born in 1925 and earned his BA degree in economics at City College of New York. He formed Transammonia in 1965. The company, which trades, distributes, and transports fertilizer materials, liquefied petroleum gases, and petrochemicals, is listed by Forbes magazine as one of the nation's 100 largest private corporations.

Mr. Stanton is chairman of the Ministerial Committee, past trustee of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan, and a member of the boards of Lincoln Center Inc. and The New York Presbyterian Hospital.

In 1982, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by YU. In making the presentation, Dr. Lamm lauded Mr. Stanton's "clear-eyed vision which, coupled with [his] modest but effective style, has helped us continue our service to the nation and the world." □

Remarks spoken by Ronald P. Stanton, YU's new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, at its annual meeting on September 18

Dr. Lamm, fellow Board members and members of the administration:

I want to thank you for selecting me to be the next Chairman of Yeshiva's Board. I follow the tenure of Bob Beren, who displayed such great dedication and worked with such intensity and with such vigor. We are grateful for Bob's outstanding contribution to this institution.

The duties with which you have entrusted to me fill me with both joy and humility. The joy results from the challenge to lead Yeshiva in these exciting times; the humility comes from the fear that I will not succeed in satisfying YU's many constituents. Whatever the outcome of my term of service, I want to make certain pledges to all the concerned members of our community, including faculty members, administrators, college board members, and particularly the student body, for whom, after all, Yeshiva University exists.

One of the Jewish newspapers referred to me as a Lamm loyalist. This I am, without any equivocation. At the same time, however, I believe that under the aegis of our next president, the University will undergo important changes for which we should pledge our attention and our time.

To remove any doubt about the program, I would like to spell out certain guiding principles:

- Any and all important decisions will be arrived at by consensus and by discussion with those who are interested in contributing their advice to the governance of the University. The outcome will be a consensus but will also be strongly influenced by the tradition, the mission, and the guiding principles of Yeshiva University as established by our past leadership.
- We will step up our efforts to recruit young and dynamic people as members of the various boards. This new generation of leaders will serve the University in the years to come.
- We will strive for cross-pollination in our academic program so that professors will lecture not only at their own college but also at other colleges in the constituency of Yeshiva University.

- The University will recognize the importance of its own Board, but also will give its help and assistance to the various colleges and schools.

And we will make a continuing effort to keep our relationship with RIETS close and fraternal:

- We will try to have greater interaction between the college boards and the University Board so that the contact between them will be more frequent, more illuminating, and more effective.
- We will have continuous contact with the student body and will endeavor to create a friendlier and kinder atmosphere with current students and alumni. I will appoint a committee of board members, faculty, staff, and students to accomplish these goals.

We will review, and if necessary, restructure the University and its constituents to adapt to today's challenges, but do so in an open "give-and-take" atmosphere.

- We will maintain the University's financial strength, and give members of the Board access to the financial information and reports they need to meet their fiduciary obligations.

Therefore, I will welcome suggestions, advice and opinions from all of you who are here and all those who are not here in this room at the present time.

The people who created Yeshiva University expressed a boldness of purpose and imagination as well as the dedication and willingness to give of themselves in order to achieve where we are today.

We have to demonstrate the same vision and strength of purpose to meet the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

I have a feeling that my future service on this Board will be just as stimulating and rewarding as the past 26 years. I look forward to working with you and thank you again for the opportunity you have given me.

Scheiber Scholarship*continued from page 1*

truly extraordinary," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Monique C. Katz Dean of Stern College. "Our graduates will find themselves in the enviable position of being able to focus fully on their medical school studies without the burden of substantial loans."

Two first-year Einstein students, Deena Blanchard and Yael Yaari, were the first to receive Scheiber scholarships. They did not go through a formal application process but were chosen after the funds were made available in June. A formal process is set for the 2003-04 academic year.

Anne Scheiber was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1893. She paid her way through law school, and found employment as a federal tax auditor.

Throughout her 23-year career, she received superior performance reviews, but was never promoted, which she attributed to being Jewish and a woman. When she retired in 1941 with a monthly pension of \$83 and \$5,000 in savings, she devoted her talent and energy to investing in the stock market, where religion and gender didn't matter.

Ms. Scheiber did her own research before making investments and would attend annual meetings of 'her companies' when they were held in New York. She had an acute understanding of the stock market and an uncanny ability in investing.

Upon her death in 1995, she accumulated a portfolio valued at \$22 million, and bequeathed virtually all of it to Yeshiva University. As she requested, the gift will endow in perpetuity a scholarship

and loan fund for deserving Jewish women at Stern College for Women and Albert Einstein College of Medicine "who have indicated their desire to assist in the development of humanity, and alleviate pain and suffering."

"I believe these scholarships will accomplish precisely what Ms. Scheiber wanted: to enable exceptional women to achieve exceptional goals without having to compromise because of financial need," Dr. Bacon said. "There is no doubt in my mind that the recipients will always be inspired by Ms. Scheiber's vision for what women can achieve, and they will surely commit themselves to helping alleviate suffering as Ms. Scheiber had wanted."

The awards will be known as the Anne Scheiber Scholarship Fund and Anne Scheiber Loan Fund Awards. □

Student Lounge Opens

The first of the two student lounges at the new 36th Street Residence Hall at the Midtown Campus is open this semester, providing students with a haven that looks and feels like home. Designed by Susan Aiello of Interior Design Solutions, the room was inspired by an adjacent garden, and is meant to encourage study, recreation, and informal get-togethers in a relaxed environment. Work on the second lounge is expected to be completed by December.

FACULTY PROFILE

David Shatz: Master teacher brings philosophy to life for students

A lifelong baseball devotee, David Shatz, PhD, insists that he can root for both the Mets and the Yankees, a notion that befuddles just about every other fan in New York. It's like voting for Nixon and McGovern. It's impossible and irrational. And this man is a philosopher, a master of logic and a defender of reason?

But there's an explanation of sorts. As Dr. Shatz writes in "The Overexamined Life is Not Worth Living," an essay in *God and the Philosophers*, "Hume taught us, in effect, that it is a vice to be too rational, to hold out for rigorous arguments in all walks of life. Only a mad person would want to conduct

"He is one of the most stimulating teachers I've ever had," says Meira Russ '02, a history major who "minored in Dr. Shatz."

"He had taught these courses many times before, but you would never know it from his energy and enthusiasm," she said.

His peers agree. "David Shatz represents a remarkable and very rare combination," remarked Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Brookline, MA, known to the YU community as the founding editor of the *Torah u-Madda Journal*. "By virtue of his personal behavior and prodigious intellectual accomplishments, he is undoubtedly one

like, 'Can we go to the ball game?'" Yet he did have a serious side. If he wasn't scrutinizing the latest box scores, he was studying the Talmud or reading history books, curious about the larger world.

The Shatz family returned to the city in 1961, when David was 13, settling on Manhattan's Upper West Side. As luck would have it, the local rabbi was a charismatic young man named Norman Lamm, whose emphasis on both the sacred and the secular would become enormously influential.

Soon, David was off to Yeshiva University, where he would study from high school through graduate school. In college, he concentrated first

college courses at age 23, whetting his appetite for further study and a career in academics.

Next, Dr. Shatz enrolled in a doctoral program in general philosophy at Columbia, earning a PhD with "distinction," an honor awarded to the top 10 percent of dissertations. He also won a prize for best essay in the philosophy of science. His dissertation subject was Knowledge, Reliability, and Justification.

The years at Columbia were critical in shaping Dr. Shatz as a philosopher and as a teacher. One of his professors, Sidney Morgenbesser, was among the most influential philosophers of recent decades, who, said Shatz, maintained "that the rigor and seriousness of philosophy must never crowd out the sheer joy and fun of doing it."

The same could be said for Dr. Shatz, whose sense of humor and ability to bring

philosophy at Stern, "David is that rare person who is both a respected, world-renowned scholar, and an extraordinarily devoted teacher, dedicated to the craft of teaching."

Competing values

Since joining the YU faculty in 1982, Dr. Shatz' stature has grown in both secular and Jewish studies. His work in general philosophy focuses on the theory of knowledge, free will, ethics, and the philosophy of religion, while his efforts in Jewish philosophy cover Jewish ethics, Maimonides, and 20th-century rabbinic figures.

An expert in the ethics of medicine and science, he has served on a special committee of the Orthodox Union convened to address the ethics of stem-cell research, and he is currently writing a book on peer review. To date, he has delivered hundreds of lectures, published 50 articles, and edited or coedited seven books, including *Philosophy and Faith: A Philosophy of Religion Reader*; *Definitions and Definability: Philosophical Perspectives*; and *Tikkun Olam: Social Responsibility in Jewish Thought and Law*.

He is also editor of the *Torah u-Madda Journal*, where he explores how Torah interfaces with a broad range of fields, from psychology to medicine to law to politics. "Nowadays, when people think of Torah Umadda, they often think Torah and Jewish history and philosophy," he said. "This is certainly an aspect of it, but there is more to Torah Umadda than combining Torah with academic Jewish studies. A good example is the symposium we had on cloning, which played a role in the Orthodox Union's deliberations on stem cell research."

In addition, Dr. Shatz is editor of the MeOtzar HoRav

"A whole generation of students has been won over by this master teacher, who is at once rigorous and entertaining, erudite and grounded."



his or her life with complete Spock-like logicity. We are possessed not of minds alone, but of hearts, emotions, needs, instincts, and habits; and we inhabit social contexts. Obviously, without the use of reason, anarchy enters; still, in most areas of belief and practice, we don't and shouldn't let philosophical worries get to us."

Sounds reasonable. Yet, Dr. Shatz was writing a defense of faith, not a treatise on baseball. Nonetheless, he does have a knack for explaining just about any topic. It's a good thing, for his job is to help students unravel some of the densest material to be found in a college curriculum, from medieval philosophy to theories of the mind to metaphysics. And his students do seem to get it. Indeed, at Stern College for Women, where he is professor of philosophy, he has won the senior class' outstanding professor of the year honor five times. A whole generation of students has been won over by this master teacher, who is at once rigorous and entertaining, erudite and grounded.

of the sharpest, most insightful and most thoughtful representatives and spokesmen for Torah, and lectures on the subject, in all its complexity and multifaceted nature, are models of clear, cogent, and

"Nowadays, when people think of Torah Umadda, they often think Torah and Jewish history and philosophy..."

rigorous thinking. "He is also a remarkable *mensch*, blessed with a real sensitivity to people and a first-rate, quick-witted sense of humor. I know of precious few people who have both these qualities: first-rate intellect and first-rate human decency."

The sacred and the secular

Dr. Shatz, who was born in the Bronx and raised in Monsey, NY, was much like other boys, occupied with hobbies like baseball and comic books. "I didn't bother my parents with big questions," he says. "It was more

on mathematics, shifting to the humanities, influenced by a freshman course taught by Leo Taubes, who retired recently after teaching English at YU for 42 years. The young scholar was particularly drawn

to philosophy, which integrated his varied interests. "And it fit in well with my Talmudic studies, with deep questions and rigorous thinking," he said. David graduated from YC in 1969, winning honors as the class valedictorian along with a Talmud prize.

Feet firmly planted in two worlds, he spent the next few years studying for the rabinate at the University-affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), a master's in Jewish philosophy at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and a master's in general philosophy at New York University. He began teaching

philosophy to bear on issues in everyday life has endeared him to countless students. "He's a very funny man," said Ms. Russ. "I remember in one class, he broke into a comedy routine," replete with impersonations of famous people.

But his courses are anything but "philosophy-lite."

"He forces you to think," says Ms. Russ. "He expects a lot from his students."

And he gives a lot in return, spending countless hours reviewing papers with students and creating new courses. Over the years, Dr. Shatz has designed 20 different courses,

"...but there is more to Torah Umadda than combining Torah with academic Jewish studies."

mostly electives in general and Jewish philosophy. In 1997, he was a winner in the international John Templeton Foundation competition for best course design in science and religion.

According to Charles Raffel, PhD, assistant professor of phi-

series, which publishes manuscripts by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. As a college student, Dr. Shatz was enormously influenced by the Rav as a Talmud teacher, orator, and rabbinic figure. His influence

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CARDOZO

AECOM Roundup

For Sandra Feuerstein, Labor of Law is Labor of Love

As a successful attorney, judge, and mother of two, Sandra J. Feuerstein is accustomed to accolades. Professional excellence, integrity, and respect are qualities that not only guide her legal work, but underpin her approach to people, be they litigants or adversaries, friends or associates.

So when President Bush nominated this stellar graduate of YU's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law ('79) and current New York State Supreme Court justice to serve as a US District Court Judge for the Eastern District, the honor seemed consistent with a career filled with many highs and firsts.

She was a member of Cardozo's first graduating class, serves as its highest-ranking judicial graduate, and formed half of what many believe was the nation's first mother-daughter judicial team. Ms. Feuerstein's mother, Annette Elstein, an immigration judge, had the honor of swearing in her daughter as a state Supreme Court justice. Ms. Feuerstein won election to the office in 1994. Five years later, NY Gov. George E. Pataki appointed her to the state's Appellate Division in the Second Department,



the first woman from the 10th judicial district.

Prior to her state Supreme Court victory, Ms. Feuerstein served as a Nassau County, Long Island District Court Judge from 1987 to 1993.

Ms. Feuerstein is a member of the Cardozo Board and serves as one of three cochairs. Through her involvement with and support of Cardozo, she embodies the school's defining mantra: building greater understanding of how law and society coexist and applying an ethical overlay to its application. She expresses a deep

love and respect for the legal profession, a reverence forged from long hours in law school and hundreds of trials, savoring the give-and-take and cerebral combat critical for reaching judicious rulings.

Achieving that goal, she says, means injecting much-needed civility in the courtroom, qualities often lacking in daytime television's portrayal of judges as didactic demagogues. Young people, she said, should be taught that the law "can be used but also can be abused." □

AZRIELI

Yaffa Eliach Teaching at Azrieli

A pioneering scholar in Holocaust studies has joined the faculty of Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration for fall semester 2002. Award-winning author and historian, Dr. Yaffa Eliach is offering "Teaching the Holocaust" as part of the School's commitment to excellence in curricular development and teacher training for Jewish education here and abroad.

"Teaching the Holocaust has been central in my life for many decades, for the Holocaust is a watershed in world history,"

Dr. Eliach said. "I am convinced that only proper and accurate teaching of the Holocaust can assure tolerance and security, and can prevent anti-Semitism and destruction. The present situation shows that the world has not learned the right lessons about the Holocaust."

Dr. Eliach is a professor of history and literature in the department of Judaic studies at Brooklyn College, specializing in Eastern Intellectual European history, Holocaust studies, and Hasidism.



She created the Tower of Life at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, a display of 1,500 photographs depicting life in a typical Eastern European *shtetl*. She also founded the first Center for Holocaust Documentation and Research in the US. Her most recent project is a full-size replica of a *shtetl*, to be built in the near future in Rishon Le-Zion, Israel. The open-air shtetl museum will represent all aspects of Jewish life of Ashkenazim and Sephardim, as well as Jewish contributions to the world at large.

Dr. Eliach is author of *There Once Was A World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok*, which was a nonfiction finalist for the National Book Award. She also wrote *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*, *We Were Children Just Like You*, *The Liberators: Eyewitness Accounts of the Liberation of Concentration Camps* (coeditor), *The Last Jew* (coauthor), *The Fisherman's Wife* (Hebrew), and a book now being published in Japan, *Shtetl Children—Angels in Heaven and Children on Earth*. □

- Renato Rozental, MD, PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience and anesthesiology, and Solomon L. Moshe, MD, professor of neurology, neuroscience, and pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine received a national award for epilepsy research. They are among the first scientists to be funded by a new consortium of epilepsy-related organizations and individuals, called Partnership for Pediatric Epilepsy Research. The Epilepsy Foundation administers the program.

- Researchers, led by Luciano Rossetti, MD, professor of medicine, have demonstrated the existence of a specific biochemical pathway in humans that may lead to excess body weight. Their findings, reported in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, lend support to the "thrifty gene" theory, which suggests that human genetics allow for efficient fat storage when food is plentiful.

- Nancy A. Dubler, LLB, professor of epidemiology and social medicine, was part of a Food and Drug advisory panel on breast implants. Two years after the government allowed the saline-filled devices to remain on the market, debate over their safety continues. The panel urged better follow-up studies and questioned the likelihood of women with implants to undergo additional surgery within five years.

- Karen Warman, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, conducted a survey with colleagues at Einstein of pharmacists in the Bronx, where asthma rates are among the nation's highest. The survey found that many local pharmacies are either not equipped to treat asthma, or refuse Medicaid coverage for ventilators, inhalers, and other medicine. Since the 1999 survey, reported in *Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, Medicaid has increased reimbursement rates for equipment, and the New York State department of health is helping pharmacists acquire the devices at more-affordable prices.

- Mark F. Gordon, MD, associate professor of clinical neurology, was lead researcher for testing the effects of Botox, a purified strain of botulinum toxin, on safely paralyzing unwanted muscle movement in stroke patients. His team first tested Botox on 126 patients with spasticity in their wrist and hand muscles to see if the toxin would ease the tensed muscles. Nearly half of patients showed some improvement after the first shot. For patients who received four shots, nearly 70 percent reported improvement after a year.

- Stanley Crain, PhD, professor of neuroscience, and colleagues at Einstein demonstrated that novel formulations of narcotic painkillers may be used in effective, pain-relieving dosages, without producing serious dependence or withdrawal effects. These findings, reported at the International conference on Pain and Chemical Dependency in June, could potentially mean better and safer forms of narcotic painkillers.

- Judith Wylie-Rosett, EdD, professor of epidemiology and social medicine, authored a statement for the American Heart Association on fat substitutes and health for publication in its journal *Circulation*. About 90 percent of the US population has tried a low-fat food or fat substitutes, but obesity keeps skyrocketing, the association said.

- Foods made with fat substitutes, used in moderation, may provide some flexibility in food selection, but are not an effective strategy on their own for weight control," according to Dr. Wylie-Rosett. "Often, reduced-fat versions of products have the same or even more calories than their full-fat versions."

- An estimated 60 percent of Americans are overweight and 25 percent are obese. "During the 1990s the number of people in the US with diagnosed diabetes increased by about 33 percent, the result of increased rates of obesity, she said.

- John Condeelis, PhD, professor of anatomy and structural biology, and Robert Singer, PhD, professor of cell biology, became cochairs of the department of anatomy and structural biology at Einstein.

- Gabriel G. Haddad, MD, has been appointed university chairman of the department of pediatrics at Einstein and physician-in-chief of Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

S. Daniel Abraham Summer Course Provides Southern Comfort

How many people know that in 1800 Charleston, SC, was home to more Jews than any other North American town or city

department of religion and Nathan and Sophia Gumenick Professor of Jewish Studies at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. Dr.

ening Jewish identity.

Students heard lectures from Dr. Raphael and guest professors from local universities. Impressed by the caliber of the women, Dr. Raphael remarked, "The students were extremely bright and asked probing, challenging questions." Those questions touched issues such as Jewish culture in the antebellum period, Jewish communities and the regional economy, and the decline of small town Jewish life. The program also focused on civil rights history and included site visits to the Civil Rights Museum in Savannah and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta.



From left: Dr. Marc L. Raphael, Shifra Landowne, Alisa Rose, Miriam Bader, Rose Blynn, Rebecca Rosenber, Shira Frankel, and their tour guide.

or that it gave birth to Reform Judaism on this side of the Atlantic?

These and other gems of Jewish history and culture were discovered courtesy of an honors course this summer under the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program. The program is offered through Stern College for Women.

Students took a 10-day trip to Charleston, Atlanta, and Savannah where they visited historic synagogues, cemeteries, museums, day schools, and Jewish community centers. They also met with local rabbis, community leaders, and Jewish families who painted a portrait of the Jewish experience in these regions from the colonial period to the present.

The course was led by Dr. Marc Lee Raphael, chair of the

Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Honors Program and course coordinator, said, "We chose Dr. Raphael for his renowned scholarship and expertise in this area."

Shifra Landowne and Alisa Rose, two course participants, said they found observing Jewish life in the South and its development fascinating. "Nothing there resembled a typical New York Jewish community," Ms. Landowne said. "The most valuable part of the course for me was speaking with many interesting people and learning about their connection to their heritage." A highlight, Ms. Landowne pointed out, was a day trip to Beaufort, SC, where the group visited Beth Israel Synagogue and met a woman committed to maintaining the congregation despite the town's weak-

"The lectures were fantastic, but the bulk of our learning came through discussions sparked by Dr. Raphael. His breadth of knowledge inspired us." Ms. Landowne said. The women particularly enjoyed the course's group dynamic. "We benefited from having a small group because there were better opportunities for discussion," Ms. Rose emphasized. "We continued our intense conversations during bus rides and in our rooms late into the night."

"Summer Honors Courses are an integral part of the Honors Program," Dr. Wachtell said. "I wanted to create a course that would be challenging and uniquely designed to suit the interest of SCW students. The South, rich in American and Jewish history, was irresistible." □

A Murder Mystery That Brings the Past to Life

Professor Jeffrey Freedman is an unusual kind of historian. The associate professor of history at Yeshiva University is drawn to events that seem to contradict their milieu.

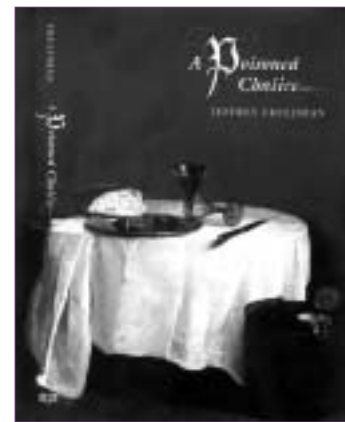
Indeed, he believes, such moments often get brushed aside in the broad sweep of history when they seem contrary to their respective period. For Professor Freedman, these strange slices of history offer insights into the past, as evidenced by his new book, *A Poisoned Chalice* (Princeton University Press).

"I was struck as this was not the sort of event you would expect to take place during the Enlightenment. It seemed more like a crime out of the Middle Ages."

The book, lauded by the *Times Literary Supplement* as a "tour de force," chronicles the attempted mass murder in 1776 of the entire congregation of Zurich's main cathedral through poisoning of the communion wine. So malicious was the act that it questioned the limits of human reason that defined 18th-century Enlightenment itself.

"I was struck as this was not the sort of event you would expect to take place during the Enlightenment," said Professor Freedman. "It seemed more like a crime out of the Middle Ages."

Before he chose the crime as his subject, it had been relegated to a footnote in history books about Zurich, and had gone completely unmentioned in works about the larger field of German Enlightenment. This despite the sensationalist frenzy the crime stirred up throughout German-speaking Europe, with



newspaper stories of the trial and intellectuals debating the problem of evil in contemporary journals.

Professor Freedman began his research as a kind of detective, interested in reconstructing only the details of the past. But soon his work revealed broader implications for the Enlightenment as a whole, as there seemed no rational motive for so extreme a crime. "It was an attempt at mass murder because in a Protestant cathedral, the entire congregation drinks the communion wine," explained Professor Freedman.

No strong motive existed among the suspects, including the defrocked minister who was eventually executed. Yet the crime suggested a capacity for evil so depraved, it seemed diabolic. And it belied one of the most basic of Enlightenment notions: that man is not born with an inherent capacity for evil, as Christian doctrine of original sin maintains.

As *A Poisoned Chalice* reconstructs the case and the widespread attention it drew, the book unearths another forgotten aspect of history writing: the art of storytelling. As a detective story, his book makes for riveting reading; as an historical account, it offers a fascinating view of the Enlightenment. □

Sy Syms School Faculty Tapped as Experts

Images of CEOs being led away in handcuffs, captives of industry testifying before Congress, and Americans seeing their nest eggs depleted in slumping stock prices dominated headlines this past summer.

Sy Syms School of Business faculty, in print and broadcast interviews, offered special perspective on abuses in corporate America.

With business and ethics fundamental to the Sy Syms curriculum and the Jewish values underpinning YU's mission, the faculty proved natural and effective voices for interpreting the recent spate of

corporate corruption.

Sy Syms Dean Charles Snow was featured in an Associated Press story that appeared nationwide following President Bush's announcement of a crackdown on corporate wrongdoing. He also took listeners' calls on "The Jim Bohannon Show," and discussed corporate fraud on CBS Radio 88.

As news of corporate accounting abuses intensified, major media outlets approached Syms professors for analysis on economic implications.

Dr. Moses Pava, Alvin H. Einbender Professor of Busi-

ness Ethics, was interviewed on ABC Radio and Associated Press Radio on business and ethics and was featured in a cover story in *The Baltimore Jewish Times*, "The People of the Book or Buck." The article included remarks by Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, assistant to the president of RIETS and Rabbi Sidney Shoham Professor of Rabbinic and Community Leadership at RIETS, and Dr. Aaron Levine, the Samson and Halina Bitensky Professor of Economics at Yeshiva College.

"Given our emphasis on ethics as an integral part of our course work, it is no wonder the media has shown an inter-

est in our faculty's views," said Dr. Pava.

Dr. Peter Sperling, professor of finance, was quoted in *The Boston Globe* on monetary policy and addressed the same topic on CBS Radio. In mid-August he gave an AP interview on the Bush Economic Summit and was mentioned in papers nationwide, from *The Wichita Eagle* to *The Record*.

Locally, WABC-TV covered a summer accounting course given by Prof. David Horning that included interviews with Dean Snow and students who discussed dealing with dishonest accounting practices in one's workplace. Students em-

phasized how ethics underpins their understanding of proper business practices.

Readership of these stories exceeded 5 million, raising awareness of the Sy Syms School of Business and its outstanding faculty, and reflecting its emphasis on business ethics amid increased coverage of corporate corruption.

A record 734 students now attend the School, an enrollment that indicates its enhanced reputation within the business community and its attraction for students exploring careers in business. □

YU CHRONICLES

Moshe Tendler: The Pursuit of Truth, A Lifelong Profession

As a renowned Talmudic scholar and biologist, Rabbi Moshe D. Tendler displays a measured approach to Jewish learning and its application to daily life: an insatiable curiosity, an infectious enthusiasm, and a fidelity to principles that underscore both the rigor and compassion of Jewish law.

As a professor of biology at Yeshiva College and a rosh yeshiva at the University-affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Rabbi Tendler (RIETS '49) works in two parallel worlds. He navigates each with a steady demeanor, using intellect, experience, and compassion to keep ideas and thoughts flowing.

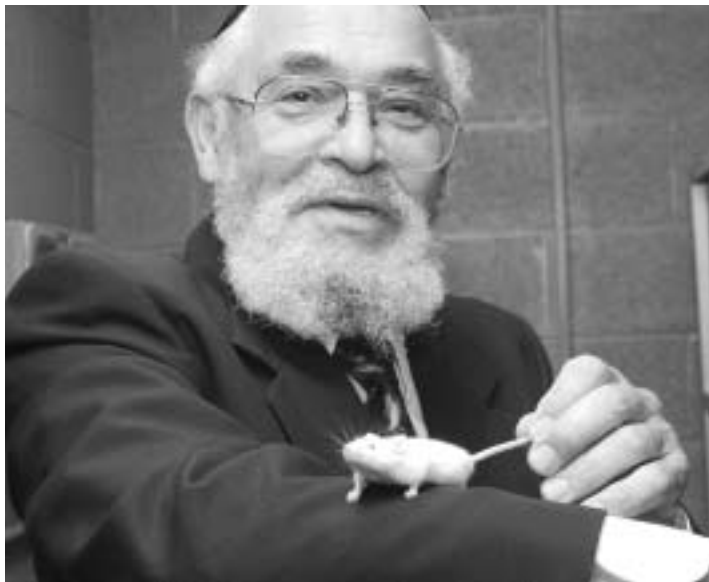
Moreover, he understands that the concept of life is inherently messy, complicated, cross-wired; an endless negotiation between interior and exterior, between the environment in which a human or animal lives and its physiological and neurological state.

Making sense of it all, Rabbi Tendler demands self-discipline, a supple mind, and a moral compass, as well as recognition of how others contribute to society's welfare. That includes laboratory mice whom he praises as unheralded soldiers in fighting disease.

Ensnared in his dusty basement office on YU's Wilf Campus, Rabbi Tendler, 76, interrupted his busy schedule to reflect on a lifetime of achievement.

Indeed, there are barriers difficult to breach. Rabbi Tendler is well practiced at strategic reticence: his normal affability and openness can be flipped off instantly when answering personal questions, especially about growing up on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

A mix of pride and humility comes across as he recalls his one-time slugger ("3-sewer") status in punchball or his favorite radio show ("The Shadow"). And while more



comfortable discussing his teaching philosophy, or the challenge of addressing complex biomedical issues, his public and private persona exudes optimism, even in the face of painful human dilemmas.

Teaching At YU

"Every new term brings its own freshness, its own sense of excitement, even some

I get up each day and say a special prayer, 'May my words be accepted to the listeners.'"

Searching For Truth

"In the Talmud, the truth remains constant and the circumstances change. In science, the truth changes. The nature of science has a human factor of fallibility. And as technology and science hold

When Two Worlds Become One

"When I leave my Talmud class and walk into microbiology, it's better than going to the movies or turning on the television. I never saw Talmud and science as two worlds. I associated science with religious belief and religious belief with science, because of its application. People make a dichotomy between science and religion, between body and soul. There isn't one. There is one body unit and one world in which God reveals himself through natural law and religious law.

Mentors Who Shaped His Life

"I was blessed to have as my father-in-law, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, who was recognized as the leading Halakhic authority of his time. I had the advantage of walking behind him and being involved in almost everything he did. It was a courtesy he extended me

to search for a common denominator as I discover the differences are not that significant.

Taking Another Path

"I could never have imagined choosing another profession. There is some frustration that the drive for excellence required more than I had to give. I would have liked to publish more of my work, including my *shiurim* [lectures]. And I would like to have done more clinical research. In the late 1970s, I chose not to join a major pharmaceutical company, where fulltime research in chemotherapy would have brought greater financial rewards, but would have meant leaving YU. And that's something I was not prepared to do. And I have no regrets."

Building A Better World

"YU remains as always a splendid platform for helping students train for professions that enhance not only themselves but society at large. Talk



nervousness. I once asked my father, who taught Talmud at Rabbi Jacob Joseph School, and was a rebbe for 42 years, whether he ever had stage fright. He said there would come a time in your career when your main fear will be whether there will be an audience to be frightened of. Thus

hands and move forward, we face brand new truths. Science has made me a liar. For decades, I taught the one-gene, one-enzyme axiom of biochemistry. I taught there were around 100,000 genes. We're down to 35,000 now. And one gene has learned to make multiple enzymes."

for more than 50 years, for which I remain ever grateful."

Mellowing Over Time

"I think I have become more tolerant of other opinions in that I'm better able to see the value of an individual despite the disagreements. That makes me more inclined

with our medical students and you often find that they chose medicine not because their father or uncle was a doctor but through their desire to contribute something special to the survival of humanity. I feel blessed to have been a part of it all." □

Road to Recovery Leads Ferkauf Professor to Larger Role

Before September 11, 2001, Dr. Bruce Arnold worked once a week for 10 years as the consulting psychologist at PS 234, a pre-K through fifth grade elementary school, three blocks from the World Trade Center site. But the school's emergency evacuation, during which children and staff fled through the

dust and debris after the north tower collapsed, accelerated the need for a hands-on mental health professional.

Prof. Arnold, who earned his PsyD in School-Clinical Child Psychology from Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology in 1986, and is now an adjunct assistant clinical professor there, has overseen the

recovery effort at PS 234 for the past year. He implemented a group-counseling program, evaluated the school's readiness to return to the building, and oversaw the adjustment process for its students.

"The school really pulled together and took care of itself," says Professor Arnold, who developed his role inde-

pendently of the Board of Education and is hired by the parents' association.

Professor Arnold's involvement in PS 234's recovery has earned him both media and professional recognition. He was included in a National Geographic Explorer documentary about PS 234's recovery on MSNBC, and will

appear later this fall in a PBS special with First Lady Laura Bush on how terrorism impacts children. He is now helping implement a city-wide, post 9/11 school initiative through the Office of School Health at the New York Academy of Medicine. □

Student Profile

Burma Native Realizes Dream of Attending YU



Sammy Samuels

Coming from a country of only eight Jews, Sammy Samuels was overwhelmed and astounded at his first Shabbat dinner on the Wilf Campus.

A native of Rangoon, Myanmar, formerly Burma, Sammy found himself surrounded by more than 500 Jewish young men at Friday night services as students returned to campus for the fall '02 semester.

"I've never seen anything like that in my life," he said. A soft-spoken young man with a ready smile, Sammy arrived in New York on August 14. Ira Weiss, a professor of accounting at Columbia University who met Sammy in Rangoon, gave Sammy his frequent-flyer

miles to make the arduous journey and took him under his wing until classes began.

"I visited Burma in the summer of 2000 and met Moses Samuels, Sammy's father, when I went to see the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue in Rangoon," said Professor Weiss. "As caretaker of the country's only synagogue and Jewish cemetery, he showed me around and told me about his son, who very much wanted to attend university in the US." The government had closed down the universities in Rangoon in 1988.

Back in New York, Professor Weiss sent Sammy a directory of the 300 major universities in America, which included YU, as well as information on

preparing essays for college applications. Through email, he assisted Sammy in the process.

A *New York Times* article last July described the Samuels family as the last remnant of Burma's Jewish community and mentioned Sammy's desire to attend Yeshiva University. Professor Weiss immediately emailed it to Sammy.

Ironically, the same day, Sammy had an interview at the American Consulate. Sammy presented the *Times* article to consular officials, and believes the piece proved instrumental in securing him his visa. The value of that prize was apparent. While 10 individuals were already accepted into American colleges, only Sammy and one other person got visas.

Dubbed the 'last hope for the Jews of Myanmar' in *The Times*, Sammy is of Iraqi descent.

"Sammy is the proud heir of a beautiful legacy," said Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, vice president for university affairs and consultant to YU's Sephardic Studies Program, which he co-founded with the late Dr. Solomon Gaon. "His experience at YU will enable him to go back to Myanmar and perpetuate his forbears' traditions."

Sammy spent Rosh Hashana at the home of Rabbi Yamin Levy, a faculty member of the undergraduate Jewish studies program. "Sammy had a wonderful experience in terms of seeing how a *chag* [festival] is observed according to Halakhah in America," said Rabbi Levy.

"We also got him new *tefillin* [phylacteries] and taught him how to put them on. He is doing so every day and is learning ancient texts for the first time with great enthusiasm." Rabbi Levy also pointed out that since coming here, Sammy has adopted Sephardic Jewish customs and liturgy.

Another tourist who met Sammy in Burma was Carole Basri, a New York attorney also of Iraqi descent, who has documented Iraqi Jewish communities. Ms. Basri produced a documentary on her exotic travels, in which Sammy appears, to be aired on PBS Metro Arts.

"I met Sammy and his father in November 2000 in Rangoon at the synagogue. Sammy told me he wanted to apply to university in America but had limited access to the Internet." Ms. Basri suggested he apply to YU and offered to assist him.

"My family has been affili-

ated with Yeshiva University for many years," Ms. Basri said. "My mother, Annette Basri, established a scholarship at The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy/Yeshiva University High School for Boys and is on the board of the Sephardic Council of Overseers. My brother, Dr. William Basri, is an alumnus of the high school and was honored in 1997 at the high school dinner/concert. I contacted Dr. Dobrinsky who helped facilitate Sammy's coming to YU."

In addition, Ms. Basri taught corporate law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1994, and for the last six years was involved with the ACA Heyman Intern Program, placing students at New York-area corporations.

Sammy plans to major in computer science and is taking classes in networking, calculus, and introductory English. Having spent a year in Israel in 1999, he is conversant in Hebrew and is tackling Talmud with poise and enthusiasm. The hope is that Sammy's success will help determine the future of Burma's shrinking Jewish community, where he plans to return to carry on his family's rich heritage. □

New Faculty Members Enrich Undergraduate Teaching

Yeshiva University welcomes these new undergraduate faculty members:



Dr. Wenxiong Chen, associate professor of mathematics, Yeshiva College. He received a PhD from the Institute of Math in Beijing, China, and specializes in nonlinear partial differential equations, geometric analysis, and nonlinear functional analysis. He has been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation for the past 15 years.



Dr. Paula Geyh, assistant professor of English, Yeshiva College. A PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, she is an expert in comparative literature and literary theory. Her interests include American literature, American postmodernism, and 20th-century American fiction.



Rabbi Scott Goldberg, instructor, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. He is currently earning a PhD in applied psychology at New York University School of Education. He is a certified learning disabilities teacher, reading specialist, and special education teacher.



Dr. Bruce Hrnjez, assistant professor of chemistry, Yeshiva College. A PhD in physical organic chemistry from Johns Hopkins University, he has taught at institutions including Harvard Medical School. He has received numerous grants for scientific research.



William Stenhouse, assistant professor of history, Yeshiva College/Stern College. He is a PhD candidate at University College London. Subjects he has taught include Greek and Roman history, Latin and Greek language, Renaissance culture, and historiography from antiquity to the Renaissance.

Board News

The following have been elected to Yeshiva University boards:

- Yeshiva University Board of Trustees: Ronald P. Stanton, chairman; Ludwig Bravmann, vice chairman; Bernard L. Madoff, treasurer, and Robert M. Beren, chairman emeritus.
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law: Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, Mark S. Lieberman, and Rachel L. Warren, vice chairman. Stephen B. Judlowe and Nathan Kacew are newly elected members.

THE BOOKSHELF

A Bronx Palace of Torah

By Rabbi I. Nathan Bamberger, RIETS '51, BRGS '68, '74
Soncino Press Ltd.
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Bamberger is one of only four rabbis, all RIETS *musmakhim* (graduates), who served as spiritual leader of the Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center, the Bronx. The late Rabbi Israel Miller, YU senior vice president emeritus and one of the four, wrote a foreword to the book, which now also includes a memorial tribute to him.

The Jewish Center, founded in 1924, was a considered a major NYC synagogue. When it closed in 1996, congregation members donated \$200,000 to RIETS to establish the Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center Endowed Kollel Fellowship Fund.

Rabbi Bamberger is the author of *The Viking Jews: A History of the Jews of Denmark*. He has also published *Timely Torah Twinkles*, *Basic Guide to Judaism*, and *Hilchoth Melicha*.

David Shatz

continued from page 4

as a philosopher came later, since Rabbi Soloveitchik was more attuned to phenomenology (the study of human consciousness), as it relates to religion, while Dr. Shatz pursued theories of knowledge and the philosophy of science and ethics.

"As the years went on, however, I developed this passion for phenomenology and became fascinated with Rabbi Soloveitchik. It has been a large part of my published work over the past nine years," said the professor, who is the father of two (both of whom went to YU) and grandfather of three.

Dr. Shatz cites the Rav's emphasis on dialectical thinking, "seeing that things are not completely one way or the other. You have to embrace competing perspectives. Rabbi Soloveitchik has brought it into vogue in contemporary times, but it does have old roots. There are certain dialectical tensions in the Bible and the Talmud itself: God is near, God is far; one loves God, one fears God. Those are all part of the religious attitude. Religion requires sometimes conflicting pulls."

This is one of many topics that Dr. Shatz teaches in his courses at YU. But it's not just the subject matter that he hopes to impart to his students. "I want them to walk away with the ability to think deeply, to recognize the difference between rhetorical technique and convincing, logical argument," he said. "And I want them to enjoy the exercise of thinking; thinking is very hard, but the rewards are wonderful."

The subway series

Like all good philosophers, Dr. Shatz likes to put theories to the test, taking them to the philosophical extreme. In fall 2000, during the long-awaited "subway" series between the Yankees and Mets, he had a chance to challenge one of his own deeply held beliefs. With the World Championship on the line, could he still root for both?

I actually rooted for the Yankees, because when push comes to shove..." admitted Professor Shatz, his voice trailing off. Some dialectical tensions are impossible to abide. □

New Faces at Student Services



Andrew Leibowitz, YC Student Council president Shai Barnea, and Dr. Efreim Nulman

A winning combination deserves an encore. That's the case at the restructured Office of the Dean of Students, where onetime colleagues have returned this fall to develop more comprehensive and responsive services at both campuses.

In the restructuring, former university dean of students Dr. Efreim Nulman has returned as senior university dean of students after a two-year hiatus; Andrew Leibowitz, who worked under Dr. Nulman and Dean of Students David Himber before leaving in 1999, takes over as assistant dean of students at the Wilf Campus; and Rabbi Yehudah Fine resumes duties as part-time guidance counselor for undergraduate men.

"It's like a coach of a basketball team that won a championship," said Mr. Leibowitz. "Dr. Nulman wanted his original crew back because he knew that the team worked."

At the Wilf Campus, Mr. Himber and Dr. Chaim Nissel,

associate dean of students, remain in their respective positions. Personal counselors also include Rabbi Yosef Blau, Ronald Lamb, and international student adviser Russell Schoumaker.

At the Midtown Campus, Student Services positions remain unchanged under Dr. Nulman, with Zeldra Braun as assistant dean of students for undergraduate women, Beth Hait as coordinator of student services, and Rachel Kraut as residence supervisor. Personal guidance counselors include Dr. Rochelle Ausubel and Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg. Mr. Schoumaker and Marga Marx serve as international student advisers.

Dr. Nulman is a 1974 alumnus of Yeshiva University High Schools, and graduated from Wurzweiler School of Social Work with an MSW in 1981 and a DSW in 1984. In his new capacity, he will primarily focus on students, leaving administrative responsibilities to Mr. Himber. He said he aims

to represent the needs of students to the administration and to emphasize and advocate for them where appropriate.

"We also have an obligation to represent the views of the administration to the student body. To do both successfully, it's important for us as a department to regain student trust and to convey to them that they are our priority," he said.

Dr. Nulman worked in student services from 1984 to 2000 before leaving to teach clinical courses at Wurzweiler and family therapy at other institutions. He plans to draw on his work with families to help students adjust to the educational, social, spiritual, and personal demands of college life.

A 1994 YC alumnus, Mr. Leibowitz oversees various aspects of student life at the Wilf Campus, including undergraduate activities, counseling, and assisting students with personal and school-related concerns. He and Ms. Hait at the Midtown Campus represent the "front lines" of connecting students and administration.

"Our job is to connect with students, get them involved, get them to understand that we are here to help them. We want students to know there's a place to which they can turn with any academic issues—psychological, social, personal, medical," Mr. Leibowitz said.

Parents and students can contact the Office of Student Services at the Wilf Campus at 212-960-5480; at the Midtown Campus at 212-340-7715. □

2002 Roth Scholars Engage In Research

Not everyone's idea of a perfect summer vacation is to spend 10 weeks in a lab coat and rubber gloves, hunched over test tubes and data. But for 8 YU undergraduates, gaining hands-on research experience under the tutelage of top biomedical scientists was time well spent.

Students from Florida, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada were engaged in research in various aspects of cancer, lupus, malaria, and multiple sclerosis as 2002 Roth Scholars at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

YU's Ernst and Hedwig Roth Institute of Biomedical Science Education sponsored the annual program. Scholars were Brian Barr, Caryn Gamss, Julia Josovitz, Gary Lelonek, David Rosenbaum, Meryl Sava, Anya Sedletcaia, and Joseph Sebeo—all seniors.

The students were assigned

mentors, members of Einstein's high-profile faculty, to guide and supervise their projects. Ms. Gamss examined malaria in a parasitology lab with her mentor Dr. Kami Kim, associate professor, department of medicine, infectious diseases. She targeted a specific gene that controls parasites' ability to produce Hypoxanthine, which is necessary to manufacture DNA.

Halting the production of Hypoxanthine prevents parasites from reproducing, stemming the disease. "The program gave me a taste of what research is like. It was rewarding because what I was doing might help in some way to find a new drug to treat malaria," Ms. Gamss said.

In researching multiple sclerosis, Mr. Lelonek examined the expression of QKI proteins during human fetal spinal cord development. "I wanted to add to the library of

knowledge on MS with the hope that someone with the disease will once again walk instead of being confined to a wheelchair," he said.

Able to plan and execute their own experiments, the students enjoyed the independence afforded to them as Roth Scholars. Most intend to pursue careers in medicine or research.

Ms. Josovitz said, "I greatly benefited from the experience of working in a lab and conducting research at this level while still an undergraduate." She examined the mechanism of Taxol, a cancer-fighting drug with mentor Dr. Susan Horwitz, professor of molecular pharmacology.

The Ernst and Hedwig Roth Institute of Biomedical Science Education was established in 1978 to improve education in biological and related sciences at Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women. □

ATHLETICS

New Coaches for Stern College Tennis Team



Debbie Schwartz



Randi Greenberg

Two accomplished players will coach tennis at Stern College for Women.

Debbie Schwartz, a silver medalist in tennis at the 1997 Maccabiah Games in Israel, joins Randi Greenberg, a tennis pro who once played Billy Jean King.

Mrs. Schwartz, who considers her Maccabiah victory a career highlight, and Mrs. Greenberg, a top performer in regional competition, bring years of experience as teachers, competitors, and spectators. They will replace Heidi Nathan who resigned to spend time with her new baby after two successful years as coach.

"We'll work hard with the women to help them gain competitive experience," Mrs. Schwartz said. "I am looking forward to forming a good team." The 12-member team includes two players from last year. "We want them to improve their skills but most importantly have an enjoyable season," Mrs. Greenberg added. The two women are neighbors in Rockland County, NY, and have worked together in the past.

Mrs. Schwartz coached the tennis team at The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy/Yeshiva University High School for Boys, 1984-86 and 1990-94, when her two sons attended the school. She also coached the high school team at Torah Academy of Bergen County, 1996-2002. Passionate about her work, Mrs. Schwartz calls herself and her family, tennis enthusiasts.

Mrs. Greenberg teaches the game's fundamentals and strategies to individuals and groups of all ages. She is a league coordinator for World Team Tennis, a coed recreational league established by Billy Jean King. Certified by the United States Professional Tennis Registry, Mrs. Greenberg also offers private lessons and coaches school teams.

The tennis team competes in the Skyline Tennis Conference. □

Gurock Returns to the Macs

You can go home again, especially if you've never really left. So says Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History, on his return this semester to the Maccabees as assistant coach.

Dr. Gurock joined the coaching staff of Dr. Jonathan Halpert in 1977, and for 12 years played a key role in helping strengthen YU's basketball program.

"This is not a return to action because I never left the program behind," said Dr. Gurock of his ongoing association with the team.

"We are fortunate to have someone like Jeff who combines extensive basketball knowledge with the ability to deal with young people," said Coach Halpert.

In April 2002, Dr. Gurock threw out a feeler to the coach. "How would you feel about having a broken-down tank commander on your staff?"

Coach Halpert answered with an enthusiastic yes, and a deal was struck.

Joining Dr. Gurock on the coaching staff is Yossi Gev, YC '02, men's basketball career scoring leader.



Dr. Jonathan Halpert (left) with Dr. Jeffrey Gurock.

Dr. Gurock is finishing a book on Judaism and sports that, although scholarly, has autobiographical overtones.

"One of the things I'm writing about is that YU's Maccabees are American Jewry's team. The Macs are the most publicly identified Jewish team in the country.

"Wherever we go, people in the Jewish community are anxious to host us, and the teams we play against know we're proud of our Jewishness. On the court we play the right way, and we do a mitzvah by proving Jews can be athletic while remaining committed to their Judaism... that's why we're Team Torah Umadda." □

Spotlight on Alumni

Benjamin Balint: A Knack for Asking Difficult Questions

When *Commentary* magazine, the prominent American-Jewish monthly, covered the checkered record of Swiss behavior during World War II, former US ambassador to Switzerland Faith Whittlesey took notice. Two years later, she took notice again, this time of Benjamin Balint, the magazine's new assistant editor, and sent him to Switzerland for a first-hand look at

ongoing discussions. A 1998 Yeshiva College alumnus, he was chosen by Whittlesey to be a Young Leader of the American-Swiss Foundation, an organization she established to forge ties between these "sister republics."

Balint joined 25 people, including two state senators, a West Point major, a CNN producer, and the nation's first Vietnamese-born mayor, for an intensive weeklong confer-

ence in Switzerland in June that featured meetings with US and Swiss powerbrokers.

Being the philosopher he is, Balint likes to ask questions. He majored in the subject at YU and studied for his MA at the University of Washington. And, his pre-*Commentary* journalism experience, including stints with several University publications and an internship at the *Forward*, trained him to ask difficult ones.

To that end, he grilled the head of the Swiss Banker's Association about dormant Swiss bank accounts of Holocaust victims, a source of controversy and anger among survivors and Jewish defense organizations.

He interviewed the mayor of Basel about his city's role as the home of Herzl's First Zionist Congress in 1897, which laid the groundwork for modern Israel's creation.

But he also questioned Jacques Forster, vice president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, about the organization's refusal to admit Israel's humanitarian aid society.

"Forster offered a long, legalistic explanation for the exclusion of Magen David Adom," said Balint. "But I think the fact that the question is publicly posed is more important than the answer." □

Alumni Activities – November, December, January

Thursday, November 14, 6:00–8:00 PM

Microcosmos

Art exhibition featuring the work of Tobi Kahn, YUHS '70
YU Museum at the Center for Jewish History
15 W. 16 St., NYC

Thursday, November 21, 7:00–9:00 PM

I Shop, Therefore I am: Compulsive Buying and the Search for Self

By April L. Benson, PhD, FGS '78
Midtown Campus
245 Lexington Ave. (between 34th and 35th Sts.), NYC

Tuesday, December 3, 8:30–9:30 AM

Cardozo Breakfast Forum featuring president of the United Federation of Teachers Randi Weingarten CSL '83
Third Floor Lounge, Brookdale Center
55 Fifth Ave. (between 12th and 13th Sts.), NYC

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00–9:00 PM

Hanukkah Networking Party

For SCW, SSSB, and YC graduates of the 1970's–2000's
Abigail's Restaurant
1407 Broadway at 39th St., NYC

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00–9:00 PM

Red Rice, Silver Tears: A Social Work Odyssey in Bhutan and Cambodia

by Barbara Rachlin, WSSW '81
Rm 1147, Brookdale Center
55 Fifth Avenue (between 12th and 13th Sts.), NYC

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 AM to NOON

Protecting Your Estate From Financial Predators: Making Sure That the Good Guys, Not the Bad Guys, Get Your Estate

Brookdale Center
55 Fifth Ave. (between 12th and 13th Sts.), NYC

Thursday, December 12, 7:00–9:00 PM

Tour of Congregation Shearith Israel, America's First Jewish Congregation, starting at 2 W. 70 St., corner of Central Park West, with its executive director, Dr. Alan M. Singer YC '76, WSSW '78

Wednesday, December 18, 8:00–9:30 PM

YU Alumni Awards Ceremony

Featuring graduates of SCW, SSSB, and YC
Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center
239 East 34th St., NYC

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00–9:00 PM

Yiddish, Yiddishkeit, and Yiddishism with Rabbi Sol Steinmetz, YC '53, RIETS '56
Midtown Campus
245 Lexington Ave. (between 34th and 35th Sts.), NYC

Sunday, January 12, 10:00 AM–12 NOON

Piecing It Together: The Levine/Rogarshevsky Tour
Lower East Side Tenement Museum
90 Orchard St., NYC

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00–9:00 PM

Helping Others Cope with the Threat of Terrorism

by Dr. Harvey Schlossberg FGS '71
Room 1008, Brookdale Center
55 Fifth Ave. (between 12th and 13th Sts.), NYC

For information and reservations, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 212-960-5373 or at alumdesk@yml.yu.edu.

RIETS

New Ordination Course Turns Modern Challenges into Opportunities

□ Prepares Students for Practical Challenges of Rabbinates

What makes a rabbi? A thorough knowledge of Halakha (Jewish Law)? High moral character? Dedicated professionalism? A humanitarian spirit?

The answer encompasses these qualities and more, according to a new course offered this semester at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Devised and taught by Rabbi Robert Hirt, assistant to the President of RIETS and holder of the Sidney Shoham

Chair in Communal and Rabbinic Leadership, the course analyzes the challenges and opportunities facing Modern Orthodox rabbis today.

"Good leadership doesn't consist only of good deeds," says Rabbi Hirt. "As a rabbi, one has to implement an overarching vision to make his congregation embody the values he imparts."

The course, "Rabbinic Leadership in the Congregation and the Community: Translating Vision into Reality," aims to prepare students for

what they may expect as working rabbis. It complements courses in the *semikah* (ordination) program that teach other skills.

The course's aim involves establishing priorities while juggling a rabbi's day-to-day functions, said Rabbi Hirt. "Rabbis are called upon to be many things: teachers, halakhic authorities, administrators, outreach workers. They have to know how to manage all these roles."

The course maps out changes in Jewish life relevant

to a Modern Orthodox rabbi's constituency. These include more opportunities for Jewish education, particularly among women, as well as demographic and population shifts that place new demands on rabbis.

Other subjects covered include time management, establishing rabbinic authority in an open society, the rabbi and his family, and preserving *kavanah* (focus) in a large congregation.

Rabbi Hirt will employ well-known rabbinic and lay leaders in key positions, including

Sally Mayer, educational director of The Jewish Center, NY, and Rabbi Hershel Billet, of Young Israel of Woodmere, NY, president of the Rabbinic Council of America.

Ultimately, said Rabbi Hirt, "We want to prepare them to bring about change rather than merely respond to it. A rabbi with a clear vision will also inspire his congregants to participate because they want to do so, even when they have many other demands on their time." □

Intensive Training Program for Day School Leadership

Jewish day school administrators from five states stayed after school this summer by choice. Their mission: exploring ways to improve the quality of their schools through innovative concepts and theories in management, communication, and curriculum.

This formed the agenda at the month-long Intensive Training Program for Day School Leadership (ITP) held at Yeshiva University, intended to address the shortage of highly trained administrators in day schools nationwide.

Ten fellows and five mentors—from Colorado, Florida,

New Jersey, New York, and Tennessee—convened for the July workshop that covered the formulation of vision and mission statements, cultivating school culture, curriculum, and teaching principles.

Fellows were Rivka Alter, Amy Ament, Chayim Dimont, Rabbi Chaim Hagler, Anat Kampf, Shoshana Klein, Rabbi Jeremy Lebowitz, Shaunna Peters, Rabbi Tzvi Pittinsky, and Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz.

ITP is under auspices of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration and sponsored by a grant from the Avi Chai Foundation. □



RIETS Offers Summer Torah Seminars

This summer, the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) brought Torah learning to a record 15 communities, from Boca Raton, FL, to Allentown, PA, under an innovative program, Yeshiva Summer Torah Seminars (YSTS).

As the premier rabbinical seminary in North America, RIETS continues to strengthen its commitment to the community it serves both intellectually and emotionally.

Nearly 70 RIETS students, alumni, and roshei yeshiva traveled cross-country to lecture on topics ranging from basic Jewish concepts to the laws of family purity, and learn one-on-one with com-

munity members. Students of Stern College for Women, the Graduate Program for Women in Advanced Talmudic Studies, and other YU graduate schools participated in the RIETS contingents.

"RIETS has offered summer learning programs for several years, but it has never launched such a wide-reaching, coordinated effort," said Aryeh Stechler, YSTS coordinator and RIETS student.

"Fifteen programs is a record number and we hope to accommodate more communities next summer." YSTS received more than 130 applications but could not accept that many participants.

Programs, which spanned

several days to a month, were tailored to the needs of each community. Some locations wanted to address topics such as the Jewish calendar or faith in the wake of tragedy, while others wanted to study tractates of Talmud. YSTS groups also spent time meeting and learning with people on a personal basis, and in many locations Shabbat programming highlighted the visit.

"RIETS attributes YSTS' success to the evaluation of each community's specific needs. We worked with the local rabbis to determine what those needs were," Mr. Stechler said. This year marked another significant step—the first time that women participated in a

response to requests for female role models.

The five-day program in Omaha was led by second-year RIETS student Jonathan Gross, who ran a similar program there last year. Joined by three others, he held sessions with different sectors, including synagogue members, individuals from the Jewish community, and youth groups. Lectures titled "How Do We as Jews React to Tragedy" and "The Jewish View of Martyrdom" were part of the theme "In the Aftermath of September 11: A Jewish Perspective."

They also conducted a Shabbat program that Mr. Gross said was enlivened by singing and Torah discussions. "The level

of excitement in the community was extraordinary," Mr. Gross said. "I believe the program will have a long-lasting impact."

Rabbi Howard Kutner YC'78, R'83 of Beth Israel Synagogue, which hosted YSTS, helped coordinate the events. "This was the fourth time Yeshiva University held Torah learning programs here and our community has greatly benefited from them," Rabbi Kutner said. "A special relationship has been formed between Yeshiva and our community from which many positive experiences have emerged."

The Yeshiva Summer Torah Seminars are a project of RIETS' Max Stern Division of Communal Services. □



Major Gift From Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Zizmor to Fund Scholarships to YUHS for Boys

A new gift from prominent New York dermatologist and Yeshiva University High School alumnus Jonathan Zizmor and his wife, Alexandra, provides \$250,000 for scholarships to Dr. Zizmor's alma mater, The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy (MSTA).

The Zizmors were honored this past June at the annual dinner of YUHS and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. During the evening, they announced that their gift will establish the Rabbi Macy Gordon Scholarship at MSTTA in honor of his teacher who influenced his development.



Dr. Zizmor earned his BA from New York University and his MD from the University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Among the first doctors to advertise their services, his ubiquitous subway and TV ads have made him "a cultural icon," according to *The New Yorker* magazine. He is a former chief of dermatology at St. Vincent's Hospital and is also the author of 10 books for the lay public on skin care.

Dr. Zizmor has been increasingly active in YU leadership and has served for more than a decade on the Board of Directors of Yeshiva College. A Benefactor of the University,

he has generously contributed to YC, Einstein, and RIETS, as well as to YUHS.

Alexandra Zizmor, who earned her BA from DePaul University and an MS from the University of Chicago, was a successful sales and marketing executive before turning her passion for collecting, wearing, and designing hats into a second career. She studied couture millinery in London with Rose Cory, official milliner to Queen Elizabeth, and is today one of America's up and coming hat designers, with her own studios in New York and London. □