

FALL 2006

CAROLINA CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Digging Education: *A Summer in Israel*

"Digging is hard physical labor, involving the use of picks, shovels, wheelbarrows, and the lifting of stones. We will be doing this work in the middle of the desert, in the heat of the Middle Eastern summer, where temperatures regularly average well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit." This may not be your idea of a relaxing vacation, but students who participated in a study abroad program this past summer were not deterred by that warning on the program application.

Under the direction of Jodi Magness, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism, five UNC undergraduate students went to Yotvata, Israel in June to conduct an excavation along with students from other universities. The dig took place at an ancient Roman fort in Israel's southern Arava region, some 25 miles north of Eilat and Aqaba on the Red Sea.

Yotvata is thought to be linked to the Biblical "Jotbathah, a land with brooks of water" (Deuteronomy 10:7), and the fort itself dates back to around 300 A.D. Yotvata's location and water resources made it a hub of settlement in earlier times. The June dig was the fourth annual excavation at the fort site, but 2006 marked the first year



Jacob Crabb, a UNC undergraduate, taking a levels reading

that UNC students participated in the program through the university's study abroad program.

Evidence uncovered at the site indicates that at various times it

was occupied by Israelites and Romans. It also featured an Islamic occupation during the 7th and 8th centuries A.D. In the present day, the fort has proven to be a rich teaching resource, providing dozens of students with their first taste of archaeology fieldwork. Participating students were not required to have past archaeology experience. Instead, they learned in the field by working long, but rewarding days.

Students rose early to complete their work and to avoid the worst of the desert sun. Every Sunday through Friday in June the excavation team began its work at 5:30 a.m. and continued to dig until 1:00 p.m. After a break for lunch, students spent their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Jodi Magness and UNC students with a Winston-Salem synagogue group that visited the dig

Trip to Charlotte

Over 60 undergraduates from Professor Magness' New Testament Archaeology class visited a Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at Charlotte's Discovery Place museum in the spring of 2006. The exhibit explored the Scrolls in detail, including the story of their modern discovery in 1947. "As a scholar who studies the Dead Sea Scrolls," said Magness, "it was especially rewarding to see my students engaged by the exhibit in a way that would not have been possible simply from a lecture."

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Jeff Spinner-Halev, INTERIM DIRECTOR
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I want to tell you how excited I am to serve as the interim director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. As you may know, Jonathan Hess is taking a well-deserved research leave this academic year, after which he'll retake the reigns of the Center. I have only been at Carolina for a year, but I have been impressed with the talented student body. The loyalty that faculty and students have to Carolina is infectious; I can tell you that the Jewish Studies faculty is quite impressive, as is their care in building a world-class Jewish Studies program. I am amazed by the support that the Center receives from the Administration and from its friends, who have contributed to the stunning growth of the Center over the last few years. It is a pleasure to be involved in this exciting work.

We continue to enrich our classroom offerings. Over 1100 students took Jewish Studies courses last year, and more and more are taking up our minor. We recently hired Luceil Friedman, who has taught Hebrew for us for some time, as a permanent lecturer. Luceil is a terrific teacher, and the Hebrew classes get bigger every year; this year, for the first time, we added an extra section of Intermediate Hebrew because of enrollment demands. Our students not only learn in the classroom; you can read in this newsletter about Jodi Magness's archaeological dig in Israel, and the experience that six UNC students had there this summer.

Our impressive faculty have received numerous awards and honors. Jonathan Hess was recently named the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor in Jewish history and culture at UNC for a three year term. Erin Carlston will be a Mayers Fellow at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, conducting research for her book, *Double Agents*. Jodi Magness won the Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize

in the nonfiction category for her book *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine*. Christopher Browning, who currently holds a research fellowship at the National Humanities Center, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Marcie Ferris's book, *Matzoh Ball Gumbo*, was nominated for a James Beard Award.

You can read about these awards in *News from Center* and on our website, www.unc.edu/ccjs. You can also read about our exciting fall lecture series and the Uhlman Family Seminar in Jewish Studies. Our faculty and invited speakers reach out to both students and community members across the state, as the Center becomes a vital presence on campus and throughout North Carolina.

We are grateful for the support we receive from friends and alumni of Carolina. Much of our programming and many of our classes would not happen without your generous help. I am always happy to meet friends and supporters of the Center; if you want to learn more about the Center, please get in touch with me.



Marcie Cohen Ferris and Christopher Browning Speak at Guilford College in Greensboro

This fall, in conjunction with the Greensboro Public Library's "One City, One Book" reading and discussion of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, the Guilford College Art Gallery in Greensboro, North Carolina hosted an art exhibit by Holocaust survivor, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. Titled "Fabric of Survival: The Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz," the exhibition was on display August 14 – October 29, 2006.

Along with the exhibit, the art gallery hosted a variety of educational programming including lectures, workshops, film screenings, and Klezmer music. Two UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members visited

the campus to lecture on related topics.

On September 7, Marcie Cohen Ferris, assistant professor of American Studies, discussed "Religion and Domestic Culture:

Judaism at Home in the American South." Her talk was followed by a book signing and a reception featuring recipes from her book *Matzoh Ball Gumbo* (UNC Press, 2005).

Christopher Browning spoke

October 11

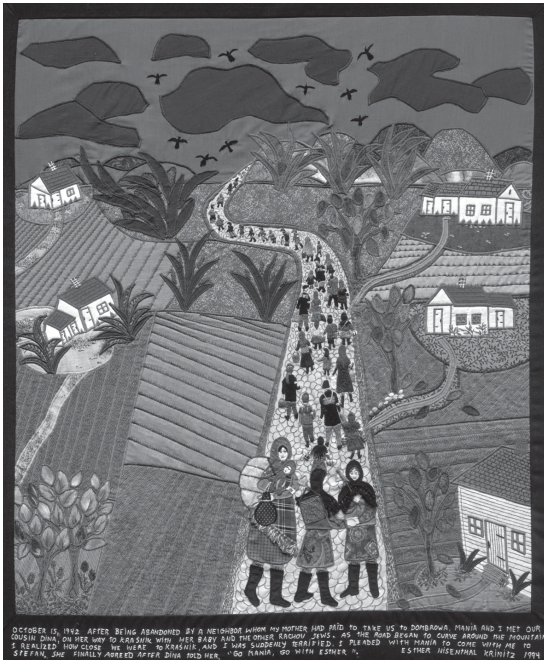
on "Holocaust History and Survivor Testimony: The Case of the Starachowice Factory Slave Labor Camps." Browning is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of History and

author of seven books on the Holocaust including two that have been awarded the National Jewish Book Award.

Since 2002, Guilford College has partnered with the Greensboro Public Library for all of the "One City, One Book" projects. Terry Hammond, director and curator of Guilford College Art Gallery, explained that the collaboration reflects Guilford's Quaker traditions: "The College's art gallery presents a wide-range of art exhibitions related to themes of social justice, yet it has never before examined the events of the Holocaust in an exhibition."

"We are thrilled to have Christopher Browning, one of the preeminent scholars of the Holocaust, speak on our campus," said Hammond. "And Marcie Ferris's talk about preserving cultural heritage and family history through the intersection of foodways and Judaism was a perfect complement to the art exhibit."

Both lectures were funded by the North Carolina Jewish Studies Lecture Series, made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans.



Road to Krasnik, Courtesy of Art and Remembrance

Would you like a UNC faculty member to speak at one of your events?

The Center's North Carolina Jewish Studies Lecture Series, funded by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58, makes Carolina faculty available to speak throughout the state at no charge, to Jewish and non-Jewish institutions, to secular and interfaith groups.

For more information, visit www.unc.edu/ccjs/lecture.html or contact the Center's associate director, Marcie Cohen Ferris, at 919.843.9881 or ferrism@email.unc.edu.

Faculty Profile: Yaakov Ariel

When Yaakov Ariel arrived at UNC's Department of Religious Studies in 1994, he already had earned a reputation as a distinguished scholar and committed teacher. Over a decade later, Professor Ariel continues to thrive in both respects.

Ariel was raised in Jerusalem, which he describes as a "city that enhances a person's curiosity about different religious groups," given the city's diversity. Ariel earned his B.A. and a M.A. in History from the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem in 1981. He soon moved to the United States and enrolled at the University of Chicago, where he earned an M.A. in Religious Studies in 1982 and a

Ph.D. from the Divinity School in 1986.

Ariel's research focuses on Judaism and Evangelical Christianity in America and how the two faiths interact. Among his publications is *Evangelizing the Chosen People: Missions to the Jews in America 1880–2000*, a book that received the American Society

of Church History's Albert C. Outler Prize. Ariel also researches cultural changes and challenges facing Jews, including what he terms "the changing definition of what it means to be Jewish."

Although he is an accomplished scholar, Ariel enjoys teaching as much as research. Before

arriving at UNC, he won three teacher-of-the-year awards, and his dedication to teaching is still evident. "I would not want to work in a place where

both teaching and research are not equally important," says Ariel, "and UNC is in many ways an ideal place for achieving a balance between the two."

Ariel's courses include: "Introduction to Modern Judaism;" "Judaism in America;" "The Evangelical Tradition;" "Messianic Movements in American History;" "Religion in Modern Israel;" and "Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism." Last year, Ariel introduced a new course entitled "Religion on Campus," which examines faith at UNC from many perspectives.

Those interested in learning more about Ariel should consider reading his autobiographical book, *The Road to Damascus: Memoirs of Captivity*, which was published in Hebrew in 1998.



Yaakov Ariel

Jonathan Hess appointed to Jewish Studies Professorship

Jonathan Hess, director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, has been named Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor in Jewish History and Culture at UNC for a three-year term.

Moses and Hannah Malkin of Sun City, Florida, 1941 UNC graduates, contributed \$350,000 toward the professorship. Their gift was supplemented with matching funds from the state's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund to create a \$500,000 professorship. The Malkins hope their gift will help expand center activities.

"The Malkins' generosity will help us develop a first-rate undergraduate program," said Jeff Spinner-Halev, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies interim director. "I'm grateful to them for their vision and



Jonathan Hess

commitment to the future development of Jewish Studies at Carolina."

Hess came to Carolina in 1993 and became Center director in 2003. His

research and teaching focus on German

cultural, intellectual and literary history from the 18th century to the present—especially the history of German Jewry from the Age of Enlightenment to the Holocaust and beyond.

Hess regularly teaches a first-year seminar on the German-Jewish experience and an undergraduate lecture course on Jews in

German culture. He also teaches graduate seminars in German-Jewish cultural studies. (He will be on academic leave from the Center from this fall until summer 2007.) His current book project explores the legacy of German-Jewish middle-brow literature and popular culture from the 1830s to World War I.



Fall lecture series kicks off with film screening and discussion of Jewish life in rural North Carolina

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies opened its fall lecture series with a film screening and discussion of “Lasting Impressions,” a documentary on Jewish life in Robeson County, North Carolina.

CBS News correspondent Drew Levinson, UNC class of ‘82, reconnected with the unique history of his small Jewish community nearly two decades after moving away. Born in Lumberton, North Carolina and raised in Fairmont, North Carolina, Levinson explored how the Jewish people of Robeson County existed both as insiders and outsiders among their Christian neighbors.

The screening and lecture were made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, ’58.

In addition to the September 12 film screening and discussion, the fall lecture series included:

■ **SEPTEMBER 26: Paula Hyman, *Gender, Antisemitism, and Modern Jewish Identity*:** Paula Hyman, Lucy Moses Professor of Modern Jewish History at Yale University, explored how Jewish men and women fashioned their identities at the turn of the 20th century, an era that challenged their most basic assumptions about the place of Jews in state and society.



Drew Levinson

■ **OCTOBER 16: Stephen Whitfield, *The (Harry) Golden Era of Civil Rights*:** The Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lectureship on the Jewish Experience in the American South. Stephen Whitfield, Professor of American Studies at Brandeis University, discussed the colorful life of Harry Golden, a Charlotte journalist and transplanted liberal New Yorker.

■ **OCTOBER 25: Daniel Boyarin, *The Son of Man: A Jewish Life*:** Daniel Boyarin, Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture at the University of California at Berkeley, discussed how the Son of Man figure in the Gospels may provide important clues for unlocking the mysteries of rabbinic and non-rabbinic Judaism and Christianity.

■ **NOVEMBER 16: Marc Bregman, *Midrash as Visualization: Depicting the Binding of Isaac in Text and Image*:** Marc Bregman, Bernard Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, explored how Jewish biblical interpretation invites its readers to visualize the narratives of the Bible.

These lectures were co-sponsored by a variety of other units on campus, including the Center for the Study of the American South and the Department of Religious Studies.

Recent Donations Strengthen Center

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies recently received three significant gifts that will greatly add to the Center’s programs and resources

In April of 2006, Gary S. Kaminsky funded the Kaminsky Family Excellence Fund in Jewish Studies, and in August, Peter and Linda Spies established the Jack O. Spies and Family Jewish Studies Fund. These gifts will support many Center activities, including undergraduate student theses, travel, and educational experiences; graduate fellowships to help attract outstanding students to the Center as researchers and instructors; library resources, including books and journals that will support the teaching and research

missions of the Center; and lectures that bring to campus prominent scholars and other experts in Jewish Studies and related fields.

The Center also received an important gift in April from Jerry and Huddy Cohen, who established the Jerry and Huddy Cohen Faculty Excellence Fund in Jewish Studies. This gift will provide key resources to faculty who teach within Jewish Studies, including funds for travel, research, and scholarly conferences, as well as support for collaborative activities with scholars at other institutions. We are grateful for these generous donations that support the Center’s faculty and academic programs.

Archaeology in the Holy Land: *Ethnic Identities and Religious Practices*

The Uhlman Family Seminar in Jewish Studies

This November, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in conjunction with the UNC Humanities Program and the General Alumni Association, sponsored the Uhlman Family Seminar, an annual event that brings together UNC and Duke faculty, school teachers, and the general public to discuss topics in Jewish Studies. This year's two-day seminar focused on archaeology and new theories of ancient Israel's origins.

The seminar opened November 29 with a discussion of the history and politics of archaeology in the Middle East, led by Eric Meyers, the Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Religion, and Director, Center for Jewish Studies, Duke University. In the evening session, Jodi Magness, UNC Professor of Religious Studies and Classical Archaeology, gave an illustrated lecture on the history and archaeology of Masada, the last stronghold of Jewish resistance against the Roman army.

On the second day, Carol Meyers, the Mary Grace Wilson Professor of Religion, Duke University, turned to the hidden religious culture of women in the period of the Hebrew Bible. She was joined by Eric Meyers for a joint discussion of artistry and ethnicity at ancient Sepphoris. The seminar concluded with a panel



LEFT Tools used on the Yotvata dig



RIGHT Yotvata dig site as seen from adjacent mountains

discussion, led by Eric Meyers and Jodi Magness, on archaeology in the Holy Land.

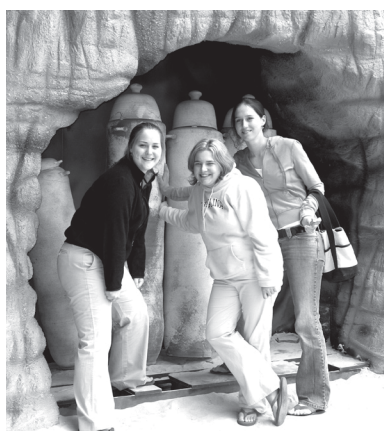
"This year's Uhlman Seminar provided teachers and community members from North Carolina an excellent opportunity to learn more about Masada, how people lived in ancient times, and the politics of archaeology," said Jeff Spinner-Halev, interim director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. "We are thrilled that the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is able to help more North Carolinians learn about ancient Judaism."

The Uhlman Family continuing education seminars are made possible by a gift from Thomas M. Uhlman, Ph.D. '75. All seminars are open to the public.

You can find more information about the Uhlman Family Seminar at our website, ccjs.unc.edu, and the website of UNC's Program in the Humanities and Human Values, www.adventuresinideas.unc.edu.



religious culture of women in the period of the Hebrew Bible. She was joined by Eric Meyers for a joint discussion of artistry and ethnicity at ancient Sepphoris. The seminar concluded with a panel



Three UNC students visiting the Dead Sea Scrolls in Charlotte, NC

ABOVE LEFT Thomas Hopper, a UNC undergraduate, moving dirt at Yotvata

BELOW LEFT Carrie Duncan, a UNC graduate student and an area supervisor for the Yotvata dig

MAGNESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

afternoons carefully washing pottery and other artifacts. They also devoted part of their afternoons and evenings to educational workshops offered by Magness and other project leaders.

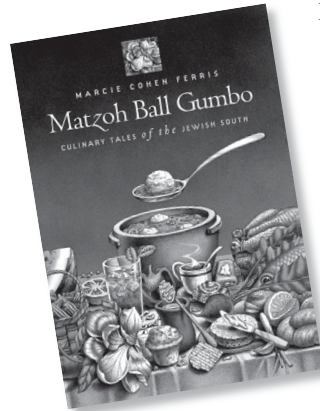
According to Professor Magness, it is essential for students to take part in programs like the Yotvata fort excavation. She explains, "Archaeology is the kind of thing that can't just be done in the classroom. You have to go into the field to understand what archaeology is."

UNC sophomore Thomas Hopper summed up his experience in Israel as follows: "Being an English major, my idea of studying involves a lamp and some Earl Grey, not a shade cloth and a trowel. It's one thing to dig through the history books, but quite another to unearth history itself." Other students will have the opportunity to gain a firsthand understanding of Hopper's enthusiasm, as Magness plans to return to Yotvata with a new group of students in June 2007.

Matzoh Ball Gumbo Receives Awards

Marcie Cohen Ferris, associate director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and assistant professor of American Studies, recently received two honors for her book, *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South*.

Ferris won the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Jane Grigson Award. Named for one of England's most respected food writers, the award honors "distinguished scholarship" in the culinary field. Also, Ferris was one of three nominees for the James Beard Foundation Book Award in the "Writings on Food" category.



Beard is an American culinary legend and his Foundation's awards are among the nation's most prestigious.

According to Ferris, *Matzoh Ball Gumbo* is "a history of the Jewish South, but explored from a slightly unusual perspective—the dinner table." Her book describes a reinvention of culinary traditions as Jews adjusted to life in a largely Christian region featuring forbidden foods like pork and shrimp. Ferris explains, "Food is my way of exploring what it means to be both southern and Jewish."

Besides dishing up a hearty serving of cultural history, *Matzoh Ball Gumbo* includes evocative illustrations and over 30 recipes. It was published by the University of North Carolina Press in October 2005.

Pecan Kugel

Robin Dorfman, Houston, Texas

Robin Dorfman is the former director of food services at the Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi. This kugel is adapted from Robin's recipe, but we made it even richer by stirring in sour cream and cottage cheese. Unmolding the kugel as Ms. Dorfman suggests makes for a show-stopping presentation.

TOPPING

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 cups whole, unbroken pecan halves

KUGEL

- 1 pound broad, flat (don't use curly) egg noodles
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 container (16 ounces) creamed cottage cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 4 large eggs
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat the oven to 350°. Set out a 13 x 9 inch glass baking dish.

For the topping: Place the butter in the baking dish and melt in the oven while it is preheating. Remove from the oven and cool to lukewarm. Crumble the brown sugar evenly over the bottom of the dish. With a tablespoon, press the sugar into an even layer. One at a time, arrange the pecan halves in rows, rounded

side down, in the sugar. With the flat of your hand, press down on the pecans to secure them.

For the kugel: Bring a large covered pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add a pinch of salt and the noodles and cook according to package directions, until tender. Drain in a colander. Return the noodles to the cooking pot. Add the butter and stir until melted. Cover the noodles so they don't dry out.

In a large bowl, with a wooden spoon, beat the cottage cheese, sour cream, eggs, granulated sugar, cinnamon, and salt until well blended. Add the noodles and toss with 2 spoons, mixing well.

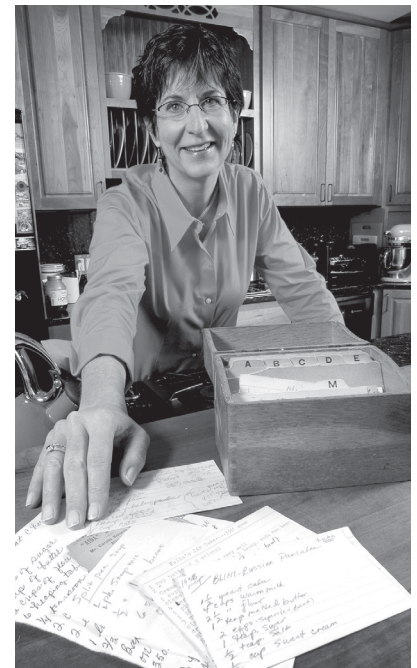
Pour the noodle mixture into the dish with the topping (which is on the bottom). Smooth with a rubber spatula. Cover with foil.

Bake until the kugel is firm and set, about 1 hour. Uncover and bake for 10 minutes more, to lightly brown the surface. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool for about 10 minutes.

To unmold, loosen the edges of the kugel and place a large rectangular platter, jelly-roll pan, or cutting board on top of the baking dish. Turn dish and platter both over together and lift off the baking dish to reveal the pecan-studded top. With a serrated knife, cut the kugel into small pieces, and serve hot or warm.

Makes at least 16 servings.

Recipe from *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales Of The Jewish South* by Marcie Cohen Ferris. Copyright © 2005 by Marcie Cohen Ferris. Used by permission of the University of North Carolina Press.



ABOVE Marcie Cohen Ferris BELOW The pecan kugel at the Temple Emanuel Tasting in Winston-Salem...gone!

A Closing Word



As interim dean, I am already enjoying working with the many strong programs offered within the College of Arts and Sciences. As a founding member

of the Jewish Studies program and having taught courses within the Jewish Studies minor since its inception in 2003, I am amazed by how much has been accomplished in a very short period of time.

With more than thirty undergraduate courses now available and two ongoing searches for additional faculty who will teach within the program, the future of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is

bright. Participation in courses, lectures and other outreach efforts remains high – a clear indication that students from around the country as well as the people of North Carolina remain interested in learning about the many and varied aspects of Jewish history and culture.

We remain grateful to alumni and friends like you for your generous support of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Gifts at all levels assist us in our efforts to ensure the program's continued excellence and enable us to uphold our goal of providing comprehensive educational experiences in Jewish history, culture and thought.

To make a gift today, you can use the enclosed envelope, make a gift online at <http://ccjs.unc.edu>, or—should you have

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questions about the different ways of making a gift—contact Kate McCutchen at the Arts & Sciences Foundation, (919) 843-9853.

Sincerely,

Madeline G. Levine

Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



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