

THE UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL

news from the Center

CCJS.UNC.EDU

CAROLINA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Jewish studies to recruit rising faculty star with \$1 million gift

A \$1 million gift to the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies will allow the Center to recruit a rising faculty star in Modern Hebrew literature and Israeli culture. The gift is from two Charlotte families: Lori and Eric Sklut, and Lori's parents, Leon and Sandra Levine.

**"IT'S CRUCIAL THAT
WE BRING IN NEW
PEOPLE WHO CAN
BUILD THEIR CAREERS
AT UNC, AND WHILE
DOING SO, HELP TO
BUILD OUR PROGRAM
IN JEWISH STUDIES."**

JONATHAN HESS

With the \$1 million gift, the Center will be able to apply for a \$500,000 matching grant from the N.C. Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund, bringing the total endowment to \$1.5 million.

The Center expects to begin recruiting for the Levine-Sklut Fellow in Jewish Studies this fall, said director Jonathan Hess. The endowment will support an assistant professor position. Making such awards to early and mid-career faculty is an important recruitment and retention strategy as the market becomes increasingly competitive for assistant and associate professors, he said.

"We have a number of distinguished senior scholars, and it's also crucial that we bring in new people who can build their careers at UNC, and while doing so, help to build our program in Jewish studies," said Hess, the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor in Jewish History and Culture. "With the generous gift from the Sklut and Levine families, we will be able to recruit a rising star in Modern Hebrew."

Courses in Modern Hebrew, first introduced four years ago, are popular at Carolina, with 71 students enrolled. Hess called the study of the language a "major linchpin of any Jewish studies program" and is eager for Carolina to develop courses in Hebrew literature and Israeli culture for the general undergraduate population.

"It is especially unique for the university and the Center for Jewish Studies to receive such a pivotal gift from two generations of a family who are major philanthropists in so many outstanding causes in North Carolina," said Eli N. Evans '58, chair of the Jewish



LORI AND ERIC SKLUT



LEON AND SANDRA LEVINE

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From the DIRECTOR'S DESK



JONATHAN M. HESS, DIRECTOR
CAROLINA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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DISTINGUISHED TERM PROFESSOR
OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF
GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR,
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Returning from a productive year's research leave, it's inspiring to see how much is going on at the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Now beginning its fifth year, the Center finds itself at a crossroads. In 2006, the College of Arts and Sciences created a faculty position in Modern Hebrew in the Department of Asian Studies. After a national search, we were lucky to hire Luceil Friedman, who created our Modern Hebrew program from scratch while teaching here on a temporary basis. With more than 70 students currently enrolled in beginning, intermediate and advanced Hebrew, our Hebrew program couldn't be more vibrant. This fall, Jonathan Boyarin joined the faculty as the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Thought in the Department of Religious Studies. Our students are already profiting tremendously from his presence on campus, and we're proud to introduce you to Dr. Boyarin in this issue of News from the Center.

These two new hires represent the beginning of a College-wide strategy for building an interdisciplinary Jewish Studies faculty that will be second to none. Our cover story for this issue of News from the Center reports on an exciting new gift from Eric and Lori Sklut and Leon and Sandra Levine that is making it possible for the Department of Asian Studies to search for an expert in Modern Hebrew literature and Israeli culture to take our Hebrew program to the next level. This fall we are also launching searches for two further faculty positions. The Department of Religious Studies is looking to hire an expert in the Hebrew Bible, and the Department of Political Science will be searching for a tenure-

track assistant professor to fill the Sara and E. J. Evans professorship in Israel and the Middle East. Next fall we will continue these efforts at faculty recruitment, beginning the search to fill the JMA and Sonja van der Horst chair with an assistant professor working in medieval and early modern Jewish history.

The nine full-time faculty members already teaching Jewish Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences couldn't be more excited about the bright future that's opening up at Carolina. With undergraduate minors in Jewish Studies and Modern Hebrew, over 1,000 students taking Jewish Studies courses each year and a dynamic outreach program on campus and throughout the state, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has already established a major presence for itself on campus and beyond. Our goal is to create a comprehensive undergraduate program, complete with a B.A. in Jewish Studies, and for me as director, it's wonderful to be able to share with you the tremendous strides we've already made toward achieving this milestone.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of Carolina's committed alumni and friends. We at the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies are very grateful, since most of what we have been able to accomplish has been done on the basis of private gifts. If you have not yet made a gift this year, I invite you to do so, using the enclosed envelope or visiting us online at ccjs.unc.edu.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with me directly should you wish to learn more about the Center. And should your travels bring you back to Chapel Hill in the coming months, please let me know. It is always a pleasure to visit with alumni and friends here on campus.

Jonathan Boyarin joins faculty as Kaplan professor



The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to welcome Jonathan Boyarin, the new Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Thought, to Carolina. Professor Boyarin comes to us from the University of Kansas, where he served as the Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies.

What impressions of Carolina have you formed in your first few weeks here?

The students are great! I came out of the second meeting of my undergraduate seminar on contemporary approaches to studying Jews thinking, “It feels like I just spent an hour and a quarter talking about Judaism with a bunch of my young, smart friends.” They talk; they take turns talking; and they respond to each other. That’s the kind of atmosphere that makes teaching a pleasure.

Can you tell me a bit more about this seminar and the other new course you’re teaching this fall?

The undergraduate class is a little bit of Intro to Judaism, a little bit of cultural history, and a little bit of contemporary society. Since the students have very different levels of familiarity with Jewish culture, religion and history, I’m trying to develop some shared core vocabulary among the group, but we’re also digging into some sophisticated notions in contemporary cultural theory.

I’m also teaching a graduate seminar, “Messiah and Modernity.” It focuses on the relation between Gershom Scholem, the greatest scholar of Jewish mysticism, and my intellectual hero, the German-Jewish critic Walter Benjamin.

Are there other new courses you’re planning to develop for our students here?

Sure! Next spring, I’m teaching two new courses I’ve never taught before. One is called “Hasidism and Modern Orthodoxy.” The other course is “Secularism and Political Theology.”

How would you like to see Jewish Studies grow as a field at Carolina?

I’m thrilled with the direction of current growth, and that’s one reason why I took this job. I’d like every undergraduate to know a little bit more about Jews, Judaism and Jewishness when she graduates than when

she starts her career here. I’d also like UNC to contribute to the growth in the numbers of professional Jewish studies scholars who aren’t Jewish themselves—a very healthy trend in many ways.

In what ways do you envision the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies contributing to this growth?

On campus, it’s a central address for folks who share an interest in some aspect of Jewishness, but who might otherwise be engaged in very different concerns. Those folks, together, can and must keep figuring out how to make what we call Jewish studies cohere, without forgetting its vital place as a connecting thread through the humanities, the arts and the social sciences. Beyond campus, the Center’s programs are a way to disseminate our insights to interested folks who aren’t specialists.

It should and can be a place where we can listen to and learn from their voices, too.

In terms of new faculty, of the specialties that aren’t yet in the queue for searches, I think the field that we call Rabbinics—the study of the Talmuds and the Midrash, and the commentaries and codes that grow out of them—is vitally important, since the study of this literature is a key determinant of diaspora Jewishness. Personally, I also have a profound love and fascination for Yiddish language and East European Jewish culture, and very much want to see that area of Jewish cultural creativity actively represented on campus and in our curriculum as well. On the other hand, we also can’t go around forever ignoring the contributions of Sephardic and Arabic-speaking Jews to our spicy Jewish stew!



Student Profile: Dori Chandler

Dori Chandler is used to late nights in the library, the stress of midterms and final exams, and the intensity of academic life at Carolina. But this aca-



DORI CHANDLER

demic year, studying at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, located in the Arava desert, she expects an entirely new set of challenges.

“I hope this experience will give me the tools to challenge myself and others to think about how we treat the earth, how we treat each other, and what legacy we are leaving behind for future generations,” Chandler says.

Headly words for a college sophomore, but that’s the kind of idealism that fuels Israel’s Arava

Institute. Students from all over the world, including Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans, come to study and live together for an extended period of time. The goal is to build long-term relationships between Jewish and Arab students; teach environmental leadership and peace-building; and encourage activism in the Middle East and beyond. As they say at the Institute: “The idea that nature knows no political borders is more than a belief. It is a fact, a curriculum, and a way of life.”

Chandler and her fellow students will live in dormitories on a kibbutz (Kibbutz Ketura) and eat all of their meals in a communal dining room. The academic course of study focuses on sustainable agriculture, air

quality, biodiversity, and environmental policy, though the subtext of peace is always on the agenda.

“There are many teachings in our Jewish tradition that are meant to instill knowledge and awareness about the natural world,” says Chandler. “This is because how we treat the trees and the animals is a reflection of how we treat each other. I hope that I will learn about other traditions’ similar beliefs and find a way to reconcile them into one common goal for love, peace, and hope.”

A long-time activist and student-leader in the environmental movement, Chandler has known for years that she would study abroad in Israel. At Carolina, Chandler studied early Judaism and the archaeology of Palestine with Jodi Magness and traveled with Magness’s class to visit the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In her advanced Hebrew classes, Chandler and her fellow students attended weekly Israeli film nights and regularly heard guest professors and community members tell their stories in fluent Hebrew. All of that preparation in the language has been a great help.

“Learning how to shop and order food in another language, meeting up with friends from the US and Israel, praying at an assortment of synagogues, and being able to volunteer in the community, have all been extremely rewarding experiences,” Chandler says. “I have even run into a number of UNC graduates studying or working

in Israel, which makes me feel right at home.”

Through UNC Study Abroad, Carolina undergraduates can pursue programs in Jewish Studies in Australia, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Israel and Poland. For more information, please visit www.unc.edu/ccjs/study_abroad.html.

**“THE IDEA THAT NATURE
KNOWS NO POLITICAL
BORDERS IS MORE THAN
A BELIEF. IT IS A FACT,
A CURRICULUM, AND
A WAY OF LIFE.”**

Deborah Dash Moore delivers inaugural Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies was pleased to welcome Deborah Dash Moore to Carolina on Monday, October 29 for her lecture on the experience of Jewish American soldiers during World War II. Dr. Moore serves as Frederick C. L. Huetwell Professor of History as well as Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

Professor Moore's lecture was based upon her most recent book, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation* (2004). The book explores issues of identity, prejudice, and democracy through the experiences of fifteen Jewish American servicemen. Over the course of writing her book, Moore interviewed over sixty men and oversaw four hundred interviews conducted at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City.

Moore became interested in the Jewish military experience in part because her father served in the Navy during World War II. "I came to realize that this part of American Jewish life was largely undocumented," Moore explained to the audience, "especially from the point of view of the individual."

More than half a million Jews served in the American armed forces during the Second World War. In addition to

the trauma faced by all military personnel, these soldiers had to struggle against the misperceptions and prejudices of fellow Americans with whom they served. "These soldiers challenged themselves and others to develop new ideas about what it means to be a soldier, a Jew, an American," said Moore.

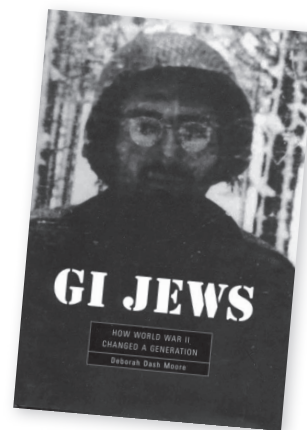
While in Chapel Hill, Professor Moore also met with students and faculty from UNC and Duke to

discuss her recent work on American Jewish photographers and the urban experience.

The inaugural Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture was made

possible by a gift from an anonymous donor in honor of Eli Evans '58, chair of the Center's external advisory board. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, the Department of History, and the Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense.

For more information about our public lecture series, please visit www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html.



**MORE THAN HALF A
MILLION JEWS SERVED IN
THE AMERICAN ARMED
FORCES DURING THE
SECOND WORLD WAR**

FALL 2007 LECTURES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2007: Aviva Kempner, *"Hank Greenberg: Famous for the Day He Did Not Play"*

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007: Aviva Kempner, *"Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg"*

OCTOBER 11, 2007: Jonathan Boyarin, *"Just Jewish Enough: Thinking Jewish in the Self-Portraits of Rafael Goldchain"*

OCTOBER 29, 2007: Deborah Dash Moore, *"G.I. Jews: How World War Two Changed a Generation"*

NOVEMBER 13, 2007: Piotr Sommer, *"A Poet's Life in Warsaw"*

TO SEE A LIST OF UPCOMING SPEAKERS FOR SPRING 2008, PLEASE VISIT WWW.UNC.EDU/CCJS/EVENTS.HTML

Through collaboration with Jewish Sparks and Ibiblio, the Center's public lecture series is available for online viewing. To see our lectures on the Internet, click on public events from the Center's public events page, www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html, and follow the link for Jewish Sparks.

Honor Roll of Donors to the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Thank you!

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies gratefully thanks the donors who have supported its students, faculty, and programs. The Center's Honor Roll typically recognizes donors who make gifts to support its expendable or endowed funds during the University's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, and whose gifts qualify them for membership in the following giving societies:

- Chancellors' Circle \$10,000 and above
- Carolina Society \$5,000 to \$9,999
- 1793 Society \$2000 to \$4,999
- Dean's Circle \$1,500 to \$1,999

Young Alumni levels

Gifts made by young alumni qualify when they meet the following criteria:

- Gifts of \$1,000 or more from those who graduated 11 to 15 years ago
- Gifts of \$500 or more from those who graduated 6 to 10 years ago
- Gifts of \$250 or more from those who graduated within the past 5 years

Because this is our inaugural Honor Roll, this list recognizes all donors to the Center since its inception in 2002. Donors are listed in the fiscal years in which their gifts were received. In coming years, we will list only gifts received during the most recent fiscal year. We are sure that you will be as amazed and pleased as we are to note how the number of those giving to Jewish Studies at UNC has grown over time.

The Honor Roll does not include bequests or other planned gifts to the Center for Jewish Studies. Furthermore, it omits the 17 anonymous donors who made gifts since 2002. This list has been prepared with great care to ensure its accuracy. To report a mistake, please contact Rob Parker at (919) 962-6182 or Rob.Parker@unc.edu.

While most of the gifts listed here have gone to support the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies' unrestricted fund, by which Jonathan Hess is able to meet the program's most pressing needs, a number have been directed to endowments, the income from which supports faculty and students in a variety of different ways.

Thank you, once again, for generously supporting the work of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.



PICTURED, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JACQUELINE VAN DER HORST SERGENT, TATJANA VAN DER HORST SCHWENDINGER, ROBERT SCHWENDINGER, CHARLES VAN DER HORST, DEREK SCHWENDINGER (SON OF TANJA AND BOB), MAUREEN VAN DER HORST (WIFE OF ROGER VAN DER HORST, WHO WAS NOT THERE) LAURA PAT SVETKEY (WIFE OF CHARLES VAN DER HORST)

On April 14, 2007, the children of JMA and Sonja van der Horst and their spouses joined the faculty and advisory board of the Center at a dinner celebrating the life of their parents. Charles van der Horst, Roger van der Horst, Jacqueline van der Horst Sergeant '82 MPH, and Tatjana Schwendinger established the JMA and Sonja van der Horst Distinguished Professorship using reparation funds awarded to their mother, a Holocaust survivor. The Center will use this endowment to recruit a distinguished teacher-scholar in Jewish history. For more information on this gift, and to read the speeches given at the banquet by the van der Horst children and Eli N. Evans, '58, please visit ccjs.unc.edu.

JEWISH STUDIES HONOR ROLL

2002

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Chase, MD

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2003

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Brook, NY

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1793 Society (\$2,000 TO \$4,999)

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Madison, NJ

Charles Michael van der Horst,
Chapel Hill, NC

Roger van der Horst,
Raleigh, NC

Recent Gifts to the Program

The Jay Gould Endowment Fund for Jewish Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. Jay Gould of New York, NY established the Jay Gould Endowment Fund for Jewish Studies in the summer of 2007. This largely unrestricted fund will be used by the Director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies to support the Center's activities, including course development awards for faculty and lectures by visiting scholars.

Sonja van der Horst*,
Chapel Hill, NC

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Jupiter, FL

Alan Harry Weinhouse,
New York, NY

Recent Gifts to the Program

*The Sidney and Lois Gordon Family
Excellence Fund in Jewish Studies in
the College of Arts and Sciences*

Lois Gordon of Hallandale, FL estab-
lished the Gordon Family Excellence Fund
in Jewish Studies in the summer of 2006
in memory of her husband Sidney and in
honor of the entire Gordon family.

This unrestricted fund will be used by the
Director of the Carolina Center for Jewish
Studies to support the program's most
pressing needs.

2007 Uhlman Family Seminar

Do you sometimes want to throw your hands in the air and demand of the heavens, "WHY?" You are in good company. Many of the biblical writers struggled with issues still pertinent to humanity today: where is God in the face of injustice, fear, uncertainty, death? Participants at the 2007 Uhlman Family Seminar, "Ancient Wisdom: Faith & Doubt in Ecclesiastes, Job, Proverbs, & the Psalms" had the opportunity to explore the wisdom literature of the Bible and the various ways, sometimes comforting and sometimes challenging, that the texts respond to these age-old questions. Renowned scholars Thomas A. Stumpff and Jonathan Boyarin of UNC and Carol Meyers and Anatheia Portier-Young of Duke University guided seminar attendees through the rich diversity of material and examined questions about the formation of the universe, the extent of human knowledge, and even the goodness of creation.

The Uhlman Family Seminar Fund was established by a generous gift from Thomas M. Uhlman, Ph.D., '75.

1793 Society (\$2,000 to \$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cone
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Sandra and Stephen Rich,
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New York, NY

Leon Levine Foundation,
Charlotte, NC

The Charles H. Revson
Foundation, New York, NY

Seymour Levin Foundation,
Greensboro, NC

Schlosstein-Hartley Family
Foundation, New York, NY

* deceased

Christopher Browning studies the use of survivor testimony in Holocaust research

Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of History Christopher Browning, one of the world's experts on the Holocaust, came to Carolina in 1999. During his time in Chapel Hill, Browning has published three major books: *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers* (2000); *Collected Memories: Holocaust History and Postwar Testimony* (2003); and *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939–March 1942* (2004). Browning recently offered a glimpse into his current research project, which focuses on a complex of industrial slave labor camps centered on the town of Starachowice, Poland.

Best known to most from the movie *Schindler's List*, labor camps differed from death camps and concentration camps, the main purposes of which were mass execution and incarceration, respectively. Labor camps were operated by civilian industrialists who purchased prisoners' labor from their SS captors to capitalize on the German war effort. At Starachowice, Browning notes, the labor camps produced ammunition. Thus, both the industrialists and the Nazis benefited from the existence of the camps.

Industrial labor camps have received relatively little scholarly attention, largely because minimal official documentation about these camps has survived. "There is no history of these camps if we don't use survivor testimony," said Browning.

The use of survivor testimony in historical research is a fiercely debated topic. On one hand are those who consider memory too frail and subjective a source on which to base historical research. On the other are

those who seek to protect survivor memory from the rigors of scholarly analysis. In his current scholarship, Browning seeks a middle ground between these two extremes, carefully using survivor testimony to gain access to otherwise unknowable aspects of the Holocaust.

As Browning explains, the slave laborers at Starachowice had an unusually high survival rate, and this resulted in a sheer quantity of eye-witness testimony focused on a single location. These testimonies provide what official documentation never could: first-hand information about the inner workings and daily reality of life in these camps.

In the classroom, study of the Holocaust provides students with insight about the mobilizing power of the nation-state and its potential to do both good and harm. Acknowledging the Holocaust as a pivotal event in the twentieth century complicates, in Browning's

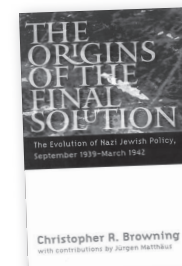
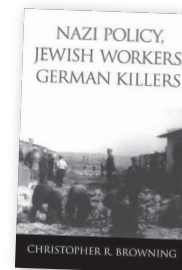
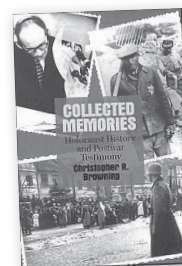
eyes, the perception of our history as a triumphal story of progress. "We live in a post-Hiroshima, post-Auschwitz world," said Browning. "Up until then we didn't know we could destroy ourselves. Now we know we can target some group or all of us and wipe them off the face of the earth. People should be aware of that."



CHRISTOPHER BROWNING TEACHING HIS FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR ON "REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST: DIARIES, MEMOIRS, TESTIMONIES"

"WE LIVE IN A POST-HIROSHIMA, POST-AUSCHWITZ WORLD. UP UNTIL THEN WE DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD DESTROY OURSELVES."

CHRISTOPHER BROWNING



RIGHT: BOOKS BY PROFESSOR BROWNING: *COLLECTED MEMORIES: HOLOCAUST HISTORY AND POSTWAR TESTIMONY*; *NAZI POLICY, JEWISH WORKERS, GERMAN KILLERS*; *THE ORIGINS OF THE FINAL SOLUTION: THE EVOLUTION OF NAZI JEWISH POLICY, SEPTEMBER 1939–MARCH 1942*

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\$1 MILLION GIFT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

studies advisory board. “These families have done their homework, and the credibility conferred by this gift will surely inspire others to join the mission of making a first rate Jewish studies program available to every student at the university and every community across the state.”

Eric Sklut, a 1980 Carolina alumnus and member of the Center’s advisory board, said he and his wife are impressed by the outreach of the Center. More than 1,000 students a year take Jewish studies courses.

“It has been enlightening to absorb all the Center has done to bring together the culture, history, lifestyle and other aspects of Jewish life and to attract such a diverse student audience,” said Sklut, whose father and sister also attended UNC — and his daughter is a freshman this year. “We’re thrilled at how well the Center has fully entwined itself into university life and how it has drawn from so many parts of the university in doing so.”

Sklut said his time on the Center’s advisory board helped him to realize how critical it is to bring top-notch

young faculty — in addition to distinguished senior faculty — to Carolina.

“Being able to recruit and retain these rising young stars will give the Center an added dimension and creative freedom, and we believe it will help attract additional faculty to the university,” Sklut said.

“As a university of and for the people of North Carolina, this institution has made great strides to broaden its student and faculty community and to reach out to so many,” added Leon and Sandra Levine. “It is a wonderful asset to the state of North Carolina and its people. The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has accomplished so much in just a few short years, and with its leadership and strong faculty base, we are hopeful this growth will continue.”

Eric Sklut, who formerly ran his own executive search business, is the founder of Perfection Automotive Inc., which develops and markets products for Porsche and other vehicles. Leon Levine is the founder and chairman emeritus of Family Dollar Stores.

FACULTY TEACHING JEWISH STUDIES

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*Modern Judaism, Judaism in America,
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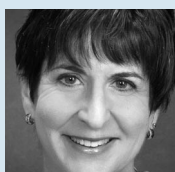
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Jewish culture and Jewish identity

**Christopher Browning**

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 English and Comparative Literature
Jews in Russian and Polish literature

**Jodi Magness**

Kenan Distinguished Professor for
 Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism,
 Department of Religious Studies
Early Judaism, archaeology of Palestine

Tops in Teaching

Jewish Studies faculty member and associate director of the Center, **Marcie Cohen Ferris**, received campus-wide recognition for distinguished teaching this year. She won a Tanner Faculty Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. The Tanner Awards are given annually to five faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in undergraduate teaching, particularly with first- and second-year students. Each winner receives \$5,000.

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 Bible/Old Testament.*

For more information about faculty research and teaching,
 please visit www.unc.edu/ccjs/faculty.html

A Closing Word



Since I stepped into the dean's office on July 1, I have marveled at the breadth and depth of the College of Arts and Sciences' departments,

curricula, and interdisciplinary programs. By drawing on interested faculty from across the College, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies defines the best attributes of an interdisciplinary program: exciting teaching, research and public outreach activities leveraged with outstanding contributions from existing departments.

Since its founding in 2003, the Center has united faculty and students from various disciplines, including religious studies, history, English and comparative literature, and Slavic languages and literatures, who share a passion for a deeper understanding of Jewish history, culture, and thought. With 9 affiliated faculty, over 30 courses, an undergraduate minor, over 1,000 students enrolled in courses, and an ambitious public lecture series, our Center's accomplishments inspire and inform.

Moreover, our Jewish Studies program continues to grow. In the coming year, we will search for three additional faculty members to move us toward a more comprehensive academic program through added course offerings and in-depth scholarship.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the consistent and generous support of alumni and friends like you. Gifts at all levels help ensure the Center's continued excellence. My colleagues and I are grateful to you for assisting us in this endeavor.

If you have not yet made a gift this year, I invite you to do so, using the enclosed envelope or visiting us online at ccjs.unc.edu. If you have questions about the different ways of making a gift, please contact Rob Parker at the Arts & Sciences Foundation at (919) 962-6182.

Sincerely,

Holden Thorp

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



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