

News from the center

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • FALL 2011 • CCJS.UNC.EDU

SUSTAINING THE CENTER'S PROGRAMS

Achieving the goal of launching a major has not slowed down other planning efforts at the Center. The Center's faculty and its Board of Advisors recognize the importance of supporting the new major and sustaining the Center's programs in the long term.

"Back when the Center was formed, I don't think any of us thought we'd see the major before the Center celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2013," said Jonathan Hess, director. "It's an achievement we can all be proud of, and I hope you all share our sense of accomplishment and excitement. Now, as we look ahead, we need to continue to grow Jewish Studies and sustain the Center and its academic and public programs. While we celebrate this important new endeavor for Carolina, we are at the same time continuing to work on other important projects that will propel Carolina into the top tier of institutions with leading Jewish Studies programs."

Among the top priorities, the Center is committed to continuing to recruit and retain highly renowned faculty, who in turn will create new courses for Carolina's students. In 2011–12, there are 14 affiliated faculty members, of which just six were at Carolina in 2003. This growth in faculty means more opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students alike. Graduate student support is another key goal.

continued inside. See **SUSTAINING**

introducing the new Degree in Jewish studies

In 2003, when the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies was formed, the faculty and Board of Advisors had a visionary goal in mind: create a Jewish Studies major. It was a long-term goal, requiring a much larger faculty, significantly expanded course offerings, and increased student demand for Jewish Studies opportunities. The major needed not only strong support from the faculty and administration, but also from alumni and friends, who would need to provide considerable private funds to create endowed faculty chairs and to support the Center's programs and its students.

Just eight years later, the Center's faculty petitioned the administration for the major; it was approved this spring, making it the first Jewish Studies major in the state of North Carolina. Next year, Carolina's students can declare the major, and the courses are already available for students to begin meeting the requirements for the major.

"So many people have worked toward this goal, from inside the university and from Carolina's alumni, and from our community at large. It really was a collective effort, all with the goal of creating something important, and meaningful, for Carolina's undergraduates," said Jonathan Hess, director. "Our undergraduates are truly amazing students and scholars. Their interest in Jewish Studies has continued to grow over the years, and I am excited to see

them embrace this major and further the field of Jewish Studies."

Since the creation of the Center, student interest in Jewish Studies courses has been consistently strong. The College of Arts and Sciences already has more than thirty-five

courses in Jewish Studies on the books in seven different departments, and more than 1,000 undergraduates take Jewish Studies courses each year. The minor in Jewish Studies supports several students per year, and the Introduction to

Jewish Studies course (JWST 100/RELI 123), introduced in fall 2009, regularly enrolls more than sixty undergraduate students each fall.

"It is exciting to witness this milestone," said Hal Levinson, chair of the Center's advisory board. "When I was a student at Carolina in the late 1970s, no one even considered the possibility of a major in Jewish Studies. I am grateful to the many people who played a role in helping make this goal a reality, and I look forward to meeting the students who will be among our first to declare Jewish Studies as a major."

The field of Jewish Studies explores the history, literature, culture and religious life of Jews in their interaction with other peoples from the Biblical period to the present. Jewish Studies is by necessity interdisciplinary, and the Jewish Studies program at Carolina draws

continued inside. See **new degree**



Carolina now offers
the first Jewish Studies
undergraduate degree
program in the state

SUSTAINING (from page 1)

Recruiting highly promising scholars is very competitive among top tier institutions, and these students are naturally in a situation where they need to balance academic priorities with financial realities. By expanding fellowship opportunities, Carolina can continue to attract talented graduate students who will bring new ideas for research projects, assist with faculty research projects, and serve as mentors for undergraduate students.

Increasing funding for other key initiatives continues as well, including creating more programs that support undergraduate research endeavors, expanding the Center's public lecture program, and supporting new course development, especially for the Capstone Courses.

"In order to fully sustain the Center and the new major during our next 10 years, and beyond, we will continue to seek leadership gifts that will provide endowment funds in perpetuity," added Hess.

"Specifically, during our second decade, we are hopeful to have a naming gift for the Center and an unrestricted endowment for the Directorship. Equally essential to the long-term sustainability of the Center, we also need to double the amount raised through Annual Giving each year."

Annual fund dollars provide key resources for the Center's program, helping support a wide range of activities, from teaching support to student stipends, from outreach to public programs. By increasing the annual fund dollars, and greatly increasing the number of donors who give annually, the Center will improve programs and boost its impact, both on campus and throughout the greater community.

the bachelor of arts degree

CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

- Languages: credit for four levels of Biblical or Modern Hebrew study (through RELI 404 or HEBR 204/JWST 204 or the equivalents)
- Eight courses including:
 - JWST 100/RELI 123 (Introduction to Jewish Studies)
 - JWST 697 (Capstone Course: Themes and Methodologies in Jewish Studies), generally taken in the fall semester of the senior year
 - 1 course on the ancient period
 - 1 course on the medieval or early modern period
 - 1 course on the period from 1750 to the present
 - At least 3 courses with Jewish Studies content that are taught outside the Department of Religious Studies
 - Students must take 2 courses at or above the 400 level, exclusive of the Capstone seminar.

JWST 697 - CAPSTONE COURSE: Themes and Methodologies in Jewish Studies

- JWST 697 is a new course which will feature different instructors and a range of topics, but will always delve into a compelling aspect of Jewish Studies. The Capstone Course is required for those with a Jewish Studies major and is also open to non-major students.

MASTER LIST OF COURSES COUNTING TOWARD THE JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR

Note: new courses may be added each year:

AMST 360 The Jewish Writer in American Life
AMST/JWST 486 Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South
AMST/JWST/WMST 253 A Social History of Jewish Women in America
ASIA 235 Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity
HEBR 305/JWST 305 Advanced Modern Hebrew I
HEBR 306/JWST 306 Advanced Modern Hebrew 2
ASIA/HIST/PWAD 277 The Conflict over Israel/Palestine
CLAR/JWST/RELI 110, 512 The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period
CMPL 270/GERM 270/JWST 239/RELI 239 German Culture and the Jewish Question
ENGL/JWST 289; Jewish American Literature and Culture of the 20th Century
GERM 225 Pop and Pious: Early Modern Jewish Literature
HEBR 436 Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice
HIST/JWST/PWAD 262 History of the Holocaust: The Destruction of the European Jews
JWST/SLAV 469 Coming to America: The Slavic Immigrant Experience in Literature
JWST/PLSH 412 20th-Century Polish Literature and Culture
JWST/PWAD/SLAV 465 Literature of Atrocity: The Gulag and the Holocaust in Russia and Eastern Europe
JWST 100/RELI 123 Introduction to Jewish Studies
JWST/RELI 103 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature
JWST/RELI 106 Introduction to Early Judaism
JWST/RELI 107 Introduction to Modern Judaism
JWST/RELI 143 Judaism in Our Time
JWST/RELI 205 Legends of Genesis
JWST/RELI 206 Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah
JWST/RELI 243 Introduction to American Judaism
JWST/RELI 343 Religion in Modern Israel
JWST/RELI 444 Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism
JWST/RELI 503 Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls
JWST/RELI 602 What Are the Holy Scriptures? The Formation of the Hebrew Canon
JWST/SLAV 464 Imagined Jews: Jewish Themes in Polish and Russian Literature
RELI 108 Jewish Writing through History
RELI 109 History and Culture of Ancient Israel
RELI 446 Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages
RELI 450 Sexuality and Marriage in Jewish Tradition and History
RELI 565 Medieval Jews and the Bible
RELI 566 Jewish Legal Literature
RELI 605 Joseph-King of Dreams: Joseph in Bible and Tradition
RELI 608 The Messiah and the Apocalypse

The degree will be housed in the Department of Religious Studies, as a new major. Students will receive a B.A. in Religious Studies with a concentration in Jewish Studies. Similar models of this type of major include the B.A. in Asian Studies with concentrations in Chinese, Japanese, or South Asian Studies.





Dr. Jonathan M. Hess

Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin
Distinguished Term Professor of
Jewish History and Culture

Professor, Department of Germanic
Languages and Literatures

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from the director's desk

Thanks for making the coal a reality

From the beginning, we've harbored the grandest of ambitions for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Our goal was not only to create a Jewish Studies program but to make Carolina both a regional and national leader in the study of Jewish history and culture. The announcement of our major in this issue of News from the Center is a historic milestone. Carolina is now the only institution in the state of North Carolina where students can pursue a comprehensive undergraduate major in Jewish Studies—and one of just a handful of institutions in the southeast where students can make the study of Jewish history and culture the centerpiece of their undergraduate experience.

The administration of the university has consistently supported the development of Jewish Studies at all levels, and in less than a decade, Jewish Studies has become an integral part of the College of Arts and Sciences. Carolina alumni and friends have also come out to support Jewish Studies in ways we never could have dreamed of 10 years ago. Indeed, without the generosity of our donors, we would never have been able to build up the vibrant interdisciplinary program we can all call our own today. Endowment gifts to support new faculty positions, to sustain our outreach program, and to support our teaching,

outreach and research missions have all been instrumental in enabling us to create the type of permanent foundation in Jewish Studies that made the major possible. Annual giving has been equally crucial in supporting our basic operations and in securing broad-based support for Jewish Studies among alumni and friends. Every gift has made a difference. Please know how much we appreciate your continued investment in the future of Jewish Studies at Carolina!

With the major, we've clearly reached a landmark. But for us here in Chapel Hill, the major in Jewish Studies represents only the beginning, and we couldn't be more excited about our ambitious plans for the future. Our new capstone course for majors represents an important opportunity to take undergraduate research in Jewish history and culture to the next level, inside and outside of the classroom. This course will rotate among Jewish Studies faculty, many of whom are already lining up to teach this seminar. As we continue to bring in new Jewish Studies faculty, we attract more and more graduate students interested in making Jewish Studies an integral part of their Ph.D. work. We look forward to the day when Carolina will be known across the country for both its distinguished undergraduate major and its record of turning out the faculty members in Jewish Studies that colleges and universities across the country recruit for new positions. At the most basic level, our mission involves not just training students who specialize but making Jewish Studies central to the undergraduate experience at Carolina more generally, and we look forward to continuing to expand our course offerings and reaching more students every year—even those who might take just one course or two. Our outreach program is thriving, and we are exploring the use of new media to share what goes on in Chapel Hill with the rest of the state and the world at large.

We have wonderful community lectures planned for the fall. Adam Mendelsohn will be giving the Margolis lecture, on Jews and the Civil War, on September 19, and on November 14, James Young will be giving the Eli Evans lecture exploring the commemoration of the Holocaust in Germany and the plans for the 9/11 memorial in New York. If you're in town, please come join us and come celebrate all that we've accomplished and hope to accomplish. Without your support, it would never have been possible!

news briefs

ELI EVANS NAMED TO ELIE WIESEL BOARD

Eli N. Evans, founding chair of the Center's Advisory Board, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The Foundation's mission is to combat indifference, intolerance and injustice.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Rich and Benjamin Cone have recently rotated off the Center's Advisory Board after completing their terms. Their enthusiasm through the years has been tremendous and we thank them for all their support.

JOINING CAROLINA THIS FALL

Carolina welcomes two new lecturers this year: Joseph Lam, lecturer in Biblical Hebrew, comes to UNC from the University of Chicago. Hanna Sprintzik, lecturer in Modern Hebrew, was born in Argentina and grew up in Israel.

THE CENTER MOVES TO PETTIGREW HALL

In June, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies moved into a new office space to better accommodate our faculty, staff, students and community. We're now located on the first floor of historic Pettigrew Hall, near Franklin Street.





“The reputation of the history department, combined with the thriving Jewish Studies program, makes it a true honor to be joining Carolina.”

van der horst fellow joins carolina

As a child growing up Jewish in Belgium, Flora Cassen was naturally curious about European history, and thanks to inspirational teachers and mentors who influenced her studies, Cassen has followed a career path that explores the rich history of Jews in Europe.

Professor Cassen, who joined Carolina's History department this year as the inaugural JMA and Sonia Van der Horst Fellow in Jewish History and Culture, will now inspire Carolina's students just as her teachers guided her studies.

Cassen teaches classes on Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, specifically focusing on the history of Europe from 10th through 18th centuries. This fall, she is teaching two undergraduate courses: History 490: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Early Modern Europe, and an honors course called The Passion and the Jews. Inspired by the debate that Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" generated, the course explores the alleged role of the Jews in Christ's Passion from the gospels to today through text, art, and film.

"In the future, I hope to create a senior seminar course on Jewish history and introduce graduate-level courses on Jews in Italy and Spain, which will explore their lives in terms of commerce, channels of information and their relationships with Christians and other Jewish communities."

Her current research focuses on Jews in Italy during the 15th and 16th centuries. She is writing a book based on her Ph.D. dissertation, which studies the roots and consequences of anti-Judaism by examining discriminatory marks, typically a yellow hat or yellow badge, that the Jews were compelled to wear in 15th- and 16th-century Italy. She is also starting research on

Jews in Italy who acted as spies for the King of Spain, despite the fact that Jews were previously expelled from Spain.

"I was shocked when I found out about these spies while doing my research on the yellow badges," said Cassen. "But through their Jewish networks, the spies had very specific information on both Italy and the Ottoman Empire, which was at war with Spain."

"In general I am interested in how the Jews lived during this time. As a small minority under Christian rule, they were subjected to a whole series of religious and legal restrictions and had an inferior status, but in spite of that, they achieved remarkable success in building communities and businesses, and developing a rich culture. Their resourcefulness was very impressive," said Cassen.

Cassen previously was an assistant professor at the University of Vermont and last academic year she held a fellowship at Columbia University's Italian Academy, allowing her to pursue her research full time. She holds a B.A. from the Free University of Brussels, an M.A. from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. in History and Judaic Studies from New York University.

"I am delighted to join such a prestigious university, and a history department that is so impressive and collegial," added Cassen. "The reputation of the history department, combined with the thriving Jewish Studies program, makes it a true honor to be joining Carolina."

The JMA and Sonja van der Horst Distinguished Professorship was established by the children of the late Johannes and Sonja van der Horst (Charles van der Horst, Roger van der Horst, Jacqueline van der Horst Sergeant '82, and Tatjana Schwendinger) with reparation funds that were awarded to their mother.

new degree (from page 1)



its faculty from a variety of academic units in the humanities, including religious studies, history, American studies, English and comparative literature, Asian studies, and Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures. Both its chronological scope and the range of geographical areas that it explores make Jewish Studies an appealing field for undergraduates from diverse backgrounds, and the historical experience of Jews as a diasporic people makes Jewish Studies a rich field for exploring the interaction between

cultures, traditions and religions. Thus, the interdisciplinary major in Jewish Studies represents both an exemplar of an undergraduate liberal arts education and a compelling perspective from which to pursue work in the humanities more generally.

The degree program will be offered through the Department of Religious Studies, where students will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a Concentration in Jewish Studies.

2011–2012 Public Events

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • CCJS.UNC.EDU

community lectures



Jews, and the Civil War: Reevaluating the Legacy of the Civil War for America's Jews

Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South

Monday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

ADAM MENDELSON, assistant professor of Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston, will reassess the impact and importance of the Civil War for the American Jewish community, arguing that the focus on the battlefield exploits of Jews conceals more than it reveals.



The Stages of Memory After 9/11: From Berlin to New York

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies

Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

JAMES YOUNG, professor and director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will share a vividly illustrated slide lecture that examines Germany's national Holocaust memorial and the World Trade Center Site Memorial and explores how the idea of a memorial has evolved to express irredeemable loss.



We're No Angels: Striving for Perfection in Ancient Jewish Literature

Monday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

CHRISTINE HAYES, professor of Religious Studies at Yale University, will lead an exploration of diverse ancient Jewish conceptions of the nature of human perfection and whether or not humans are, or should aspire to be, like angels.

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.



Material Culture and Jewish Identity: Or, What Makes a Jewish Home Jewish?

Monday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

VANESSA OCHS, an anthropologist of contemporary Jewish life and professor at the University of Virginia, will explore the ways that different kinds of things make homes Jewish, and how things found in the home facilitate Jewish living, creating, maintaining and transmitting Jewish identities.

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

academic lectures

Lost From Memory: 19th-century Jewish Merchant Communities in Small-Town America

Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization

Monday, November 7, 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

DAVID KATZMAN, University of Kansas

Competing Memories: The Arabs and the Holocaust

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, December 5, 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

OMAR KAMIL, Dubnow Institute, Germany

"To Write Poetry After Auschwitz is Barbaric": 44 Years of Living Among the Barbarians

Monday, February 6, 5:30 p.m., location TBA *

SIDRA DEKOVEN EZRAHI, Hebrew

University of Jerusalem

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

Anti-Semitism: The History of an Idea

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, February 27, 5:30 p.m., location TBA *

JONATHAN ELUKIN, Trinity College

The Wise Men of Chelm: Eastern European Jewry's Favorite Folk Tradition and Its German Origins

Thursday, March 1, 5:30 p.m., location TBA *

RUTH VON BERNUTH, UNC Chapel Hill

* Please check our Web site before the lecture date to confirm event venue.

the Uhlman family seminar

A two-day seminar on the Jewish South featuring faculty from UNC and elsewhere is planned for spring 2012. Please check our Web site for event topics, speakers, dates and registration fees. The seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund.



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All lectures and seminars are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Uhlman Family Seminar. For event updates, please subscribe to our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu or visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu.

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fall 2011



UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY LECTURES

Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.
ADAM MENDELSON
Jews and the Civil War

Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
JAMES YOUNG
The Stages of Memory

ACADEMIC LECTURES

Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m.
DAVID KATZMAN
Jewish Merchant Communities

Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m.
OMAR KAMIL
The Arabs and the Holocaust

Please visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu for more event information. If you'd like to receive updates about upcoming events, please join our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu. In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

Tanenbaums Endow Professorship in Jewish History and Culture

Babette and Jay Tanenbaum have established a new distinguished professorship in Jewish Studies, providing an endowment that will support a tenure-track faculty member who specializes in Jewish history and culture.

"We are very grateful to Babette and Jay Tanenbaum for their support of Jewish Studies at Carolina," said Jonathan Hess, director. "Their support of our faculty will not only help us hire, or retain, an outstanding teacher and researcher, it will also have a lasting impact on Carolina's future students."

Jay Tanenbaum, founder and president of Primus Capital LLC, a structured finance and investment company based in Atlanta, is former chair and current executive committee member of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL).

"My work with ISJL has fueled my interest in preserving the legacy and history of Jews in the American south and in developing programs and opportunities for Jewish communities throughout the south," said Tanenbaum. "Having a strong Jewish Studies program at a leading public university, that just happens to be in the south, further strengthens this effort. It is my hope that our endowed chair helps Carolina continue to build its outstanding academic and community programs in Jewish Studies."

Jay Tanenbaum's great-grandfather immigrated

from Sejny, Poland to Dumas, Arkansas in the 1890s, and three subsequent generations grew up in the small southern town. Babette's family similarly made its way from Alsace to Mandeville, Louisiana.

"My family's story is repeated in countless other families throughout the south. I think it's important that Jews settled across the country and became an important thread throughout the American tapestry," added Tanenbaum. "We're not alumni of Carolina, and we have no strong link to the campus, but when I learned of the Jewish Studies program, I thought it was doing vital work in contributing to this ongoing study of the Jewish experience in the American south."

State funds provide basic faculty salaries for Carolina's distinguished scholars while permanent endowed chair funds, created by philanthropic gifts, further support teaching and research. By creating a reliable source of annual support, endowed faculty chairs provide a powerful incentive to come to, and stay at, Carolina. This gift, in excess of \$1 million, qualifies for a matching \$500,000 grant from the State of North Carolina's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. For more information on supporting the programs, faculty and students at the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, please contact Margaret Costley at the Arts and Sciences Foundation: 919-843-0345 or margaret.costley@unc.edu.