

## FACULTY LEADERSHIP CHANGES FOR 2013-2014

Established in April 2003, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies celebrated its 10th anniversary and achieved several milestones during the 2012-2013 academic year. Last year the Center launched a new undergraduate degree program in Jewish Studies, introduced a new certificate for graduate students, and created a new Capstone Course in Jewish Studies, an upper-level research seminar. Effective July 1, the Center embarked on its next decade of serving Carolina's students and the local community, and coinciding with this new era is a change in faculty leadership. Professor Jonathan M. Hess, who served as director of the Center since 2003, concluded his third term on June 30.

Incoming director is **Ruth von Bernuth**, who came to Carolina in 2008 as assistant professor of early modern



German studies in the department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Her current research focuses on the relationship between Yiddish and German literature of the early modern period and beyond. In the 2011-2012 academic year, she was honored to receive the Yad Hanadiv Visiting Fellowship in Jewish Studies, which allowed her to spend a year in Jerusalem focusing on her research and to shape what will become her second book, *How The Wise Men Got to Chelm*. Professor von Bernuth

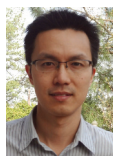
*Continued on page 2. See Faculty*

## A Modern Approach to Classical Hebrew

Carolina's Classical Hebrew program in the Department of Religious Studies recently underwent a major transformation, leading to a significant increase in the number of students enrolled.

"Typically, Classical Hebrew is taught via a purely grammatical approach, consisting of instruction on how nouns, pronouns, adjectives and verbs work in the language, enabling students to read and translate Hebrew with the help of a dictionary. The advantage of this approach is its comprehensiveness," explains **Joseph Lam**, lecturer in Classical Hebrew, who came to Carolina in fall 2011.

*I enjoy those moments when a student learns something truly new or discovers a different perspective on a familiar topic.*



LAM

"However, the challenge of retaining such a massive amount of vocabulary and grammar leaves little time for many of the other topics related to the Bible that motivated students to take the course in the first place. Our new two-course sequence in Classical Hebrew (RELI 211 and 212) addresses these issues by incorporating additional historical and cultural content into the courses while still maintaining the grammar instruction necessary for further Biblical study."

The process of learning Classical Hebrew is different from that for other languages where the goal is to communicate with a living community of speakers. Not only is Classical Hebrew an ancient language with no native speakers, but it is also preserved in one relatively small set of religious texts.

"So, an introduction to Classical Hebrew ought to be, at least in part, an introduction to the Hebrew Bible and the history that underlies the Bible. It is these historical and cultural elements that I incorporate into the new course—whether it is the development of the alphabet, or the different terms for kinship in ancient Israel, or the historical phases of Hebrew."

"The new track in Classical Hebrew allows

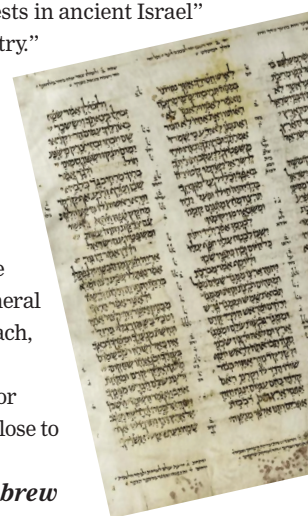
students to obtain an advanced introduction to the Hebrew Bible. By encountering the Hebrew Bible in its original language, students are able to experience it in a more immediate fashion and begin to define the ways in which this ancient collection of texts differs from the Bible they have come to know in translation," said David Lambert,

assistant professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Religious Studies. "There is a tremendous amount of interest within the student body for the study of the Hebrew Bible, so the introduction of this track allows us, when combined with our other course offerings in the area, to offer students a

thorough background in the field, one which allows them to obtain real expertise by the time they graduate."

The first course in the sequence, *Classical Hebrew I*, was introduced last semester. The new course syllabus clearly reflects the attention to both language and culture, with topics ranging from "a brief history of the West Semitic alphabet" and "Divine names in the Hebrew Bible" to "Kings, Judges, Prophets and Priests in ancient Israel" and "Biblical Hebrew Poetry."

This year will be the first time that students can enroll in both new courses in the sequence. Because of the newly incorporated historical and cultural content, these courses now fulfill two general education requirements each, which has led to a marked increase in enrollment. "For fall 2013, we already have close to



*Continued on page 2. See Hebrew*



**Ruth von Bernuth**

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## Hebrew (continued from page 1)

50 students registered across two sections," added Lam. In past years, Carolina typically had approximately 10 students enrolled in the *Introductory Biblical Hebrew* course.

As a result of meeting more general education requirements, students taking these courses come from an array of majors in both the humanities and the sciences, and students are first years through seniors. "This makes for lively and interesting class discussions, as students are able to bring their diverse backgrounds to bear on the topics and texts we address in class," said Lam.

Lam, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, grew up in a multilingual household and has always been fascinated with languages—he is a native speaker of Cantonese and can read and/or converse in about 15 modern and ancient languages. At Carolina, he has taught courses in Biblical Hebrew language, broader survey courses in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern culture as well as an undergraduate seminar on Metaphor in Religious Language.

"I enjoy those moments when a student learns something truly new or discovers a different perspective on a familiar topic. Being able to facilitate and witness those 'aha!' moments is one of the privileges of teaching," said Lam.

# From the Director's Desk

## Looking Forward to the Second Decade

With the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies coming into its "teens", it is experiencing many changes associated with a grown-up life, such as taking on a more prominent role on campus and supporting the scholarship of an ever-expanding number of faculty and students. This year, we also will experience some changes in the leadership of the Center. We are all so grateful for what the former director, Jonathan Hess, has achieved and how he has built the Center over the last 10 years. Now, the incoming team, Yaakov Ariel, David Lambert, and I, are looking to the future, and will continue the Carolina story of success.

The first student graduated with a major in Jewish studies and more are on their way to do so. There are also growing numbers of graduate students receiving support for their research at Carolina, which will shape the future of scholarship in Jewish Studies. What has been achieved with tremendous intellectual and financial support from alumni and community members over the last 10 years is astonishing and we are looking forward to expanding the Center with growing numbers of

new undergraduate and graduate students as well as new faculty in the years to come.

The 10th anniversary of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies celebrated last academic year was a great success with public lectures, academic talks, and performances, including one performance in Yiddish. (In case you missed it, you can find a video of it with English titles on our new Web page: [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu)). We are looking forward to the fall program with many academic and public events ranging from the sixteenth beyond the twenty-first century and with topics such as Moshe Rosman's academic lecture on early modern Jewish women, Gary Zola's talk on *Lincoln and American Jewry*, and Stuart Eizenstat's talk on the *Future of the Jews*.

We are all thankful for the support you have provided through the years and we are looking forward to continuing to build a strong Center of Jewish Studies in North Carolina for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and the public. I look forward to meeting you and working with you to help expand the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies as it approaches its "teenage years".

## Faculty (continued from page 1)

has presented her research at prestigious academic conferences in North America, Europe and Israel.

Incoming associate director is **Yaakov Ariel**, professor of Religious Studies, who has taught at Carolina since 1994. Professor Ariel's body of



research focuses on Evangelical Christianity and its attitudes toward the Jewish people and the Holy Land, on Christian-Jewish relations in the late modern era, and on the Jewish reaction to modernity and postmodernity. His book, *Evangelizing the Chosen People*, was awarded the Albert C. Outler prize by the American Society of Church History and his newest book, *An Unusual Relationship: Evangelical Christians and Jews*, was released this summer.

Also joining the Center's administration as faculty liaison to the advisory board is **David Lambert**, assistant professor of Hebrew Bible in the department of Religious Studies. Professor Lambert,



who came to Carolina in 2010, specializes in the Hebrew Bible, ancient Israelite religious practices, the history of biblical interpretation and the history of Jewish thought. He has been awarded numerous prestigious fellowships and honors and is currently completing his first book, *The Bible Before Repentance*.

"With Professor Hess' dynamic leadership for its first decade, the Center for Jewish Studies has blossomed from a noble idea into a remarkably vibrant hub of scholarship and engagement," said Terry Rhodes, senior associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. "Now, as the Center begins its next era, the College welcomes an outstanding new leadership team. We are confident that Professors von Bernuth, Ariel and Lambert will continue to expand the programs offered through the Center to further enhance the campus and the greater community."



# news BRIEFS

**NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:** Joining the Advisory Board this year are Peter Boneparth, '80 and Felix Lurye, '03, and a former board member, Allen Fields, '60, '65, is returning to the board. Peter Boneparth graduated from UNC in 1980 with a degree in Economics and Political Science. His wife and two daughters are also Carolina alums and his son joined Carolina's class of 2017 this fall. Boneparth is a senior advisor of Irving Place Capital. Felix Lurye graduated

from Carolina with his B.S. in Business Administration in 2003 and he currently is a Vice President within the asset management group at AIG. At Carolina, he participated in the UNC Honors program and wrote for *The Daily Tar Heel*. Alan Fields is returning to the board after serving two terms and rotating off for a year. He was one of the original advisory board members. He graduated in the class of 1960 and in 1965 he earned his MBA from Carolina. He is Managing Director at Atlantic Trust in Boston. Also joining the board this year are two student representatives. Liliana Gregory is a junior double majoring in Economics

and Central European Studies with a minor in Jewish Studies and Sam Kessler is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Department of Religious Studies. Three board members completed their terms of service to the Center in June: Emily Zimmern, Kathy Manning and Drew Levinson.

**GRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITMENT:** This past spring marked another new milestone in the Center's history: the first time the Center ever offered "top-off" grants to prospective outstanding graduate students with an interest in a field related to Jewish Studies. Applicants to Carolina were nominated by their academic departments for the top-off grants. Thanks to generous private support, the Center had top-off funding for two potential graduate students, which was offered as part of a comprehensive recruitment package. We're delighted to announce that both students who were offered these grants ultimately did choose to come to Carolina for their graduate studies. This fall, Rachel Gelfand joined Carolina's American Studies department and Alejandro Moreiras joined the Religious Studies department. Once they get settled in their studies, we will feature Rachel and Alejandro in a future edition of this newsletter.

## LITTAUER FOUNDATION SUPPORTS LIBRARY COLLECTIONS:

A grant of \$25,000 from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation will help build collections in the field of Jewish studies at the UNC Libraries. Priorities for the grant include films and multimedia in Hebrew, Yiddish and English; Jewish Studies works published in Spain and Latin America; and books in Hebrew, especially contemporary literature and reference materials such as encyclopedias and dictionaries. This new grant follows an award of \$100,000 made in 2004, when the Center was just one year old.

**CHANGES TO WEB SITE:** The Center recently revamped its web site to match the new web design used throughout campus. Our new web address is [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu). The site includes links to our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Vimeo.



## Samson Mosaic Found —

Professor Jodi Magness and Carolina students had another eventful summer at the excavation site of a Late Roman (fifth century) synagogue in Huqoq, an ancient Jewish village in Israel's Lower Galilee. Last summer, a stunning floor mosaic showing Samson and the foxes (as related in the Bible's Judges 15:4) was discovered in the synagogue. This summer, another mosaic was found which shows Samson carrying the gate of Gaza on his shoulders (Judges 16:3). The mosaics have been removed from the site for conservation. Excavations are scheduled to continue in summer 2014. Photo by J. Haberman

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## NEW JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY MEMBER:

Karen Auerbach will join Carolina this January as the inaugural chair of the Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat Distinguished Professorship in Jewish History and Culture. Professor Auerbach is currently the Kronhill Lecturer in East European Jewish History at Monash University in Australia. She completed her Ph.D. at Brandeis University and was a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University

# graduate student profile

## *Anna Kushkova*

When Anna Kushkova, of St. Petersburg, Russia, arrived at Carolina to begin her Ph.D.



*Kushkova in Moldova, 2011.*

program in Anthropology, she already had more than a decade of career experience, much of which was focused on research studies of Jewish communities in Russia, Ukraine and Moldova.

Kushkova has changed her scholarly focus several times during her academic career, having started as a linguist who then moved into the study of literatures and then to ethnography and

anthropology. She has studied at six different universities and taught at four institutions in both Russia and the United States.

"I guess I was always intuitively looking for a research field that would include living human experiences rather than written sources only. Anthropology happily combined all my interests," said Kushkova. "Jewish culture has fascinated me since I was in my teens, yet it didn't become an academic focus until just a few years ago. In 2005 I became a research fellow for field expeditions studying contemporary Jewish life in small but vibrant Jewish communities."

At Carolina, she is utilizing both her coursework and her research projects to further explore key aspects of this unique field experience.

UNC was on the top of her list when Kushkova was applying for graduate schools in the U.S. "I visited the campus in fall 2009 and immediately fell in love with the place. Everyone I met was extremely friendly and helpful and my faculty advisors revealed to me just how much I could learn at Carolina from the Departments of Anthropology and Religious Studies. The day I received the acceptance letter from

UNC was a true holiday for me!"

Now, just a few years later, Kushkova is the second graduate student to be awarded the Silver Fellowship from the Center. The Rhonda A. and Robert Hillel Silver Graduate Fellowship provides funding for Ph.D. students who are nearing the completion of their program of study, and allows students to spend an entire academic year focusing on research and writing for their dissertations.

This year Kushkova is conducting anthropological interviews in Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, seeking to describe Jewish economic practices under socialism, as yet another aspect of Jewish collective identity. Her project will compare how Jews in different environments (e.g. large cities, small provincial towns) with varying sized Jewish populations and unique economic influences functioned under the restrictions and realities of socialism.

"My field research is going to be 14 months long — from early in summer 2013 through the end of summer 2014 — and will take place in several different geographic places. In order to draw valid comparisons, I will need to talk to a large number of people in each of these settings. It is impossible to imagine that a project like this could be done without private support. I am extremely grateful to the Center and the Silver family for providing this crucial support for my research."

In total, Kushkova plans to record about 60 full-length interviews, plus additional shorter interviews. She conducts the interviews in her native Russian, but she is also fluent in English and German and speaks French, Yiddish and "a sprinkling of other languages, especially Slavic languages," Kushkova noted.

Once this project and her graduate studies are completed, Kushkova will seek an academic position in the United States. "I hope to find a place which, like Carolina, brings together people of various interests and backgrounds eager to get engaged in cultural, as well as academic, discussions," added Kushkova.

*I was looking for  
a research field  
that would include  
living human  
experiences rather  
than written  
sources only.*

*Kushkova  
conducting  
her field  
work.*



*The Rhonda A. and Robert Hillel Silver, '77 Graduate Fellowship supports a promising graduate student working in Jewish Studies in the advanced stages of his or her career at Carolina. Private support for graduate student fellowships and stipends for graduate student research and travel help nurture young scholars, create relevant scholarly works, train the next generation of leading teachers and researchers, and further Carolina's commitment to student-focused research. For more information, contact Margaret Costley at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at (919) 843-0345 or at [margaret.costley@unc.edu](mailto:margaret.costley@unc.edu)*



## community events

### He Was Like One of Us: Lincoln and American Jewry

*Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South*  
Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



**GARY ZOLA**, executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Professor at Hebrew Union College, will examine Abraham Lincoln's evolving relationship and long-term influence with the American Jewish community. The interesting history that links the 16th President and American Jewry ultimately "Judaized" Lincoln at the same time as it "americanized" the Jews.

### The Future of the Jews: How Global Forces are Impacting the Jewish People, Israel and its Relationship with the United States

Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



**STUART EIZENSTAT '64**, who has held senior U.S. government positions in three presidential administrations, will share his provocative thesis regarding the future of the Jewish people in light of the major geopolitical, economic and security challenges facing the United States, Israel, and the world.

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

### Excavating Armageddon: New Discoveries and Old Debates at Megiddo

*Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies*

Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



**ERIC CLINE**, professor at The George Washington University and co-director of the Megiddo Expedition, will present an illustrated overview of excavations at the Mount of Megiddo, the actual physical location for Armageddon, the cataclysmic battle between good and evil, including a large Early Bronze Age temple, a palace and city gate, and unexpected finds from the 1948 War of Independence.

### Allen Ginsberg and Kaddish

April 7, 7:30 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



**BILL MORGAN**, renowned biographer of Allen Ginsberg, will explore what is arguably the poet's greatest work, "Kaddish for Naomi Ginsberg," one of the most emotional poems of the 20th century which Allen Ginsberg penned when a traditional mourner's kaddish could not be recited following his mother's death. Morgan will share photographs from the family's personal albums while discussing Naomi's life and Allen Ginsberg's writing.

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

## academic lectures

### How Did Early Modern Jewish Women Accumulate Cultural Capital?

*Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization*

Oct. 14, 5:30 p.m. / Hyde Hall



**MOSHE ROSMAN**, professor at Bar Ilan University, will discuss how, beginning in the 16th century, European women attained higher cultural status by slowly moving from being cultural observers to being cultural actors in terms of synagogue participation, education, ritual behavior and literary habits.

### Archives of Knowledge in an Age of Transition: The Encyclopaedia Judaica 1928-1934

February 24, 5:30 p.m. / Location TBA



**ARNDT ENGELHARDT**, of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig, will explore the history of one of the most significant Jewish encyclopedias of the modern era, and how it sought to create a new canon of modern Jewish culture in the interwar period.

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

### Two Powers in Heaven? The Emergence of Binitarian Ideas in Pre-Christian Judaism

*The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies*

March 24, 5:30 p.m. / Location TBA



**PETER SCHÄFER**, former professor of Jewish Studies and Religion and director of the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University, will examine the emergence of new ideas regarding more than just one divine power that arose in pre-Christian Judaism and how these ideas may have contributed to shaping New Testament Christianity.

### Early Modern Europe: Did Jews Make a Difference?

March 26, 5:00 p.m. / Hyde Hall

**MAGDA TETER**, professor of history and director of the Jewish and Israel Studies program at Wesleyan University, will explore how the small minority of Jews in Europe played key—and often understudied—roles in social, economic, and cultural life in the period from the Renaissance and the Reformation to the French Revolution. This lecture is the keynote address at a Carolina symposium on *Early Modern Europe and the Jews: A History of Mutual Impact*.

## seminars

### The Uhlman Family Seminar

A continuing education seminar featuring faculty from UNC and elsewhere is planned for spring 2014. Please check our Web site for event topics, speakers, dates, and registration fees. This seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund. Pre-registration is required.

All lectures (with the exception of the Uhlman Family Seminar) are free and open to the public and no tickets or reservations are required. Seating is not reserved. To receive updates about our event schedule, please subscribe to our listserv by emailing us at [ccjs@unc.edu](mailto:ccjs@unc.edu) or visit our Web site at [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FALL SEMESTER

#### October 7

Lincoln and American Jewry  
with Gary Zola

#### October 14

How Did Early Modern Jewish Women  
Accumulate Cultural Capital?  
with Moshe Rosman

#### November 18

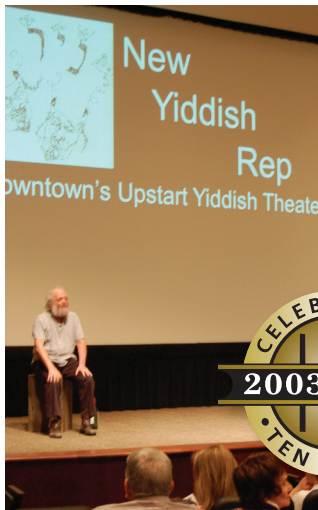
The Future of the Jews  
with Stuart Eizenstat, '64

Please visit our Web site at [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.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](mailto:ccjs@unc.edu). In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS —

April 2013 marked the 10th anniversary for the Center, which was celebrated with a very special stage performance of *Yosl Rakover Speaks to G-d*, performed by David Mandelbaum. The moving performance was followed by a question/answer session (shown) and a reception for faculty, students and members of the community. Other events in the spring semester included a March film screening of *Breaking Home Ties* with an original score composed by Carolina's Allen

Anderson and his students and an April lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls with James Kugel.



## Carolina's First Jewish Studies Graduate

*Wright in her  
"Carolina blue"  
cap and gown at  
the Old Well.*

In May, **Hayley Wright, '13**, officially became the very first student at Carolina to graduate with the new degree in Religious Studies with a concentration in Jewish Studies. She initially planned to simply take Modern Hebrew for her language requirement, but then she found herself taking more and more classes in Jewish Studies. Soon, she was working on the minor, and by the end of her sophomore year she learned about the upcoming new major in Jewish Studies. When she started her senior year last fall, the new degree program was on the books and she was able to complete all the requirements in time for her spring graduation.