

student profile

Adam Yosim '10



What do dreams of anchoring for ESPN's *SportsCenter* and Modern Hebrew have in common? Adam Yosim, class of 2010, is making the connection.

The Broadcast Journalism major has opted for a Modern Hebrew minor, and he plans to use both academic areas in his future endeavors.

Academically, Yosim loves all his Journalism courses. But one of his favorite classes so far was in Jewish Studies: German Culture and the Jewish Question with Jonathan Hess. "I never knew about the history of anti-Semitism before, I just knew about the Holocaust and everything that followed after that."

Yosim has completed four of the six required semesters of Modern Hebrew. "I like that it's a language I can relate to as a person of the Jewish faith. Although I don't have the luxury of practicing it daily in Israel or in another immersion environment, I can still use it to directly translate the prayers I say, the weekly parshah of the Torah and converse with my other friends that are also taking Hebrew."

Yosim was drawn to Carolina's prestigious journalism program, but has also found many other opportunities on campus, including his fraternity, AEPi, and singing with Carolina's only

Jewish a cappella group, Sababa. Last summer he held an internship at ABC 11, where he put all his classroom learning to use while gaining hands-on experience in the broadcast field. He previously worked at the UNC Phonathon for two years, calling up alumni, parents, and students for donations. In all, he says he raised more than \$200,000 for UNC.

"My pipe dream is to end up at ESPN as an anchor for SportsCenter. If that doesn't happen, I hope to work my way up to anchor at a news station in a top 15 news market. I've always wanted to go to Chicago!"

And how do Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies fit into his future?

"I see myself using my Hebrew minor for my journalism career by translating interviews and documents whenever there is a story involving Israel and the Middle East. Personally, I'll use my minor to converse with friends, teach Hebrew at Sunday school and with other activities at my synagogue."

news brief

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

One of the primary goals of the Center is to provide educational outreach programs that bring the excellence of our academic program to all North Carolinians. The Speaker's Bureau program covers travel and stipends for faculty who make visits to diverse groups in North Carolina. School groups, museums, public library programs and other community groups are encouraged to contact us for additional information, including a list of possible speakers and topics. Please contact Karen Gajewski at (919) 962-1509 or kgajewski@unc.edu.

celebrating five years

2003 – 2008

a closing word

from good to outstanding

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2009

Public Lectures

February 23, 7:30 p.m.
Stephen Spector, Evangelical
Christian Support of Israel

March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Nora Rubel, *The Settlement
Cookbook* and the
Transformation of Jewish
American Identity

Academic Lectures

February 9, 5:30 p.m.
Shmuel Feiner, *Pleasures
Among the Jews in 18th
Century Europe*

March 2, 5:30 p.m.
Aamir Mufti, *Edward Said
in Jerusalem*

*Please visit our Web site at
ccjs.unc.edu for more event
information. If you'd like to
receive updates about upcom-
ing events, please join our
list serve by emailing us at
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message, please provide both
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addresses.*

As the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I work closely with our senior associate deans and department chairs



to understand special opportunities that may arise. All of us are keen to attract and retain outstanding faculty and to ensure that we have the support we need for our remarkable academic programs and interdisciplinary centers. I have been very impressed by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

Although the College receives generous support from state appropriations, we rely on private funds to take us from a very good public university to an outstanding national and even international university. Jewish Studies is among the most exciting initiatives currently underway in the College, and we actively seek transformative support.

With public monies, the Center has been able to work with the Departments of Religious Studies and Germanic Languages to recruit faculty in the fields of Biblical Hebrew and Early Modern Yiddish. However, without the endowments created through private gifts, we would not have been able to recruit Jonathan Boyarin as the Kaplan Professor of Modern Jewish Thought or

Yaron Shemer as the Levine-Sklut Fellow and Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew and Israeli Culture. Nor would we be able to recruit outstanding teacher-scholars for the Evans, van der Horst, and Eizenstat Professorships in the coming years.

One of the most important and enjoyable aspects of my job is asking our generous alumni and friends to support programs like the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

I hope that if you have not yet renewed your support for the Center, you will use the enclosed envelope to do so. If you have questions about how to use appreciated securities to support the Center or you need information on how to set up an endowment, please contact Rob Parker at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at (919) 962-6182 or at Rob.Parker@unc.edu.

Thank you again for supporting the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Carney
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
and Samuel Baron Distinguished Professor
of Physics and Astronomy

News from the center

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • WINTER 2008 • CCJS.UNC.EDU

FUND RAISING 2007-08

year in review

In fiscal year 2007-08, the Center benefited from the continued generosity of Carolina alumni and friends. Two endowments funded last fiscal year—one for faculty support and the other for student support—showcase how a group of donors can come together to make a lasting difference at Carolina.

- A new endowed faculty chair was established in honor of alumnus Stuart E. Eizenstat '64, led by a \$500,000 pledge from David M. Rubenstein. The professorship is also being funded by other donors, whose gifts and pledges total over \$600,000, and is eligible for matching funds from the state of North Carolina. To ensure the successful recruitment of the very best and brightest teacher-scholar in the field of modern Jewish history, the Center is seeking an additional \$181,000 in private gifts and pledges that would garner an additional matching grant from the state, bringing the total endowment of the Eizenstat Professorship to \$2,000,000.

- Another group of donors banded together, this time in honor of Elsie Kaplan Shapiro, who served as housemother at Zeta Beta Tau for 22 years. Family and fraternity brothers established

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Reflections on the Five Year Anniversary of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

by Eli N. Evans, Chair, Advisory Board

Photo by Ann Marie Rousseau



A dynamic Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is a visionary idea that represents a dramatic aspiration for a 21st century public university. We are proud that our university has launched a major campaign that is transformational for the university with far reaching implications for the role of Jewish studies in the humanities curriculum and in its partnership with the state and with the region.

What an astonishing five year start-up it has been! With the support of over 1,000 donors—alumni, friends and parents have contributed more than \$9 million dollars to expand the concept of the center in every way. First and foremost, in this academic year, we will have doubled the size of the faculty and annually engage more than 1,000 students and offer more than 30 courses. Students of all faiths are beginning to see Jewish studies as an integral dimension of a liberal arts education and we foresee that number growing exponentially as the university expands the size of its campus. Both former Chancellor James Moeser and his successor Chancellor Holden Thorp, have observed in their meetings with alumni, that a first rate humanities program

requires a first rate Jewish studies program. And they have urged the creation of a program “second to none.” There is a new spirit in Chapel Hill and it is exciting to witness Jewish studies for all faiths coming alive on our campus and across our state.

The Center embraces the profound mission of Carolina as “the University of the People,” and has had statewide ambitions from the beginning. It is already uniquely linked to communities by bringing scholars, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and public figures to campus and other sites drawing large audiences for lectures, seminars, symposia and performances. Faculty members and other speakers go to lecture on other campuses, in museums, community centers and public libraries on such subjects as the Jewish experience in America and the South, the Holocaust, modern Israel, origins of the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls that draw large interfaith audiences. In addition, the Center supports student study of Jewish life abroad and offers annual workshops in Chapel Hill to introduce teachers to topics, educational materials and curricula to elevate the level of teaching of Jewish studies across the state.

In the near future, we will be in a position to launch an undergraduate major in Jewish Studies and thereby establish the

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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

jmhess@email.unc.edu
(919) 843-9160

from the director's desk

The impact of Annual support on Jewish studies

Over the last five years, we have created a new and vibrant program in Jewish Studies, giving unprecedented numbers of students the opportunity to study Jewish history and culture as part of the exemplary liberal arts education that Carolina offers its undergraduates. We have hired new faculty who are leaders in their fields. We have put exciting new courses on the books. And we have created a dynamic public events program that has become a focal point of intellectual life on campus and beyond.

Contributions by alumni and friends have been pivotal in enabling the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies to achieve these milestones. Our plans for the future include the creation of a comprehensive undergraduate major in Jewish Studies, and as we move forward, private gifts will help ensure that we create a program that is truly second to none.

The unrestricted dollars you have given to the Fund for Jewish Studies in the past have had very real effects. This year alone, gifts to the Fund for Jewish Studies are enabling us to open up an additional section of Modern Hebrew to meet student demand; to support the teaching of Biblical Hebrew on campus; to sustain our vibrant outreach programs; and to support faculty initiatives and student research that will shape the program for years to come.

Please know how much we appreciate your generosity, and let me encourage you to renew your investment in the future of Jewish Studies at Carolina today.

FUNDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Elsie Kaplan "Mother" Shapiro ZBT Undergraduate Research and Travel Fund in Jewish Studies to provide financial awards to undergraduates working on projects in Jewish Studies.

This year, as the Center embarks on its next wave of growth, the fund-raising priorities remain focused on faculty support and unrestricted / annual fund support that is utilized for a variety of high-priority projects.

For information on how you can become involved, please contact Rob Parker at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at (919) 962-6182 or at Rob.Parker@unc.edu.

REFLECTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

foundation for even further expansion. As we build a reputation in our state and our region, we foresee an extensive program of web-based learning to reach out to interested learners of all ages anywhere.

Jewish studies on this scale is a bold and consequential idea, which will deepen and elevate the quality of Jewish life across the state and its interaction with other faiths. For a public university in the South to undertake such an expansive commitment to Jewish education statewide as well as for all its students represents an historic event in the South. It is the right time and Carolina is the right place to do it. As the oldest state university in the nation, ranked by national magazines as among the five best "public

ivies" in America, what our flagship university does radiates across the South and the nation.

Many alumni and friends have told us how glad they are to be asked to give because of the boldness of the vision and its impact on future generations over the decades ahead. Many want to honor their parents and grand parents who bet their lives on America and the South.

We hope everyone who loves this university and is excited about this vision will make the decision to be a part of this landmark initiative. Join us in this historic campaign to provide our university and our state with the kind of 21st century program in Jewish studies to which only a great university dares aspire.

2008 honor roll of donors

to the carolina center for jewish studies

THANK YOU! The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences gratefully thanks the donors who have supported its students, faculty, and programs during the University's most recent fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The Center's Honor Roll recognizes donors who made gifts during this period to support its expendable or endowed funds 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 \$2,000 to \$4,999
- Dean's Circle* \$1,500 to \$1,999

*Gifts made by young alumni qualify for the Dean's Circle when they meet the following criteria:

- 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

The Honor Roll does not include pledge balances, bequests, or other planned gifts to the Center for Jewish Studies. Furthermore, it omits anonymous donors. 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.

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

Contributions by alumni and friends
have been pivotal in enabling the
Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
to achieve many milestones.

Chancellors' Circle

(\$10,000 and above)

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donor profile

Hal Levinson, '78



I enjoy helping UNC maintain its place as a world class university and making it an even better place to be a student.

Making big things happen is the life work of Hal Levinson, '78. With a focus on mergers and acquisitions, Levinson heads up the corporate practice group at Moore and Van Allen, Charlotte's largest law firm. Outside of the office, he has helped transform his hometown through volunteer work, including leading a six-year, \$36 million campaign to expand and endow Shalom Park, a 54-acre campus in Charlotte that is home base for major Jewish agencies and synagogues. He also serves as vice chair of the Advisory Board for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, helping guide the rapid expansion of the Center on campus.

Levinson, who double majored in economics and political science, graduated with honors and then went on to Michigan Law School. His wife, Holly, '83 shares the same UNC majors, and the couple has one son, Adam.

The Carolina Experience: "The combination of good friends, terrific professors, exposure to challenging new ideas and the overall excitement of Carolina created a permanent place in my

heart and mind for UNC. And it didn't hurt that I had front row seats in Carmichael in 1978 to watch Phil Ford and the Tar Heels beat Duke and Eugene Banks for the regular season title."

Maintaining Ties: "My involvement with the Center is very important to me, it gives me a personal and meaningful way to reconnect with, and give back to, UNC. In return, Holly and I have had the chance to meet the outstanding professors, university staff and fellow board members from around the country who work with the Center. It also gives us the opportunity to spend much more time in Chapel Hill."

Giving Back: "We have made a \$50,000 commitment to the Center because of our belief in the importance of the Center to UNC and North Carolina. And because of our love for UNC."

Tomorrow's Carolina: "As a member of the Center's Board of Advisors, I enjoy helping UNC maintain its place as a world class university and making it an even better place to be a student."

Dean's Circle

(\$1,500 to \$1,999)

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