

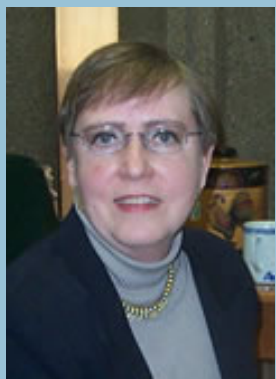
Jewish Studies Program

University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan, 526 University Hall
Chicago, IL 60607

Letter from the Director

Dear Students and Colleagues:

Welcome to our 2006/7 Newsletter designed to provide an impression of this year's exciting programs in Jewish Studies and to preview of some of next year's events.



Dagmar Lorenz

Jewish Studies at UIC is a multifaceted dynamic discipline reflecting the diverse character of our larger university community. The Program is represented by faculty members from a wide range of academic fields including, of course, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, History, Germanic Studies and Yiddish, Holocaust Studies, English, Criminal Justice, Economics, Chemistry, and Medical Education. Recent enrollment figures show that students of all backgrounds are attracted to the Jewish Studies, particularly to our core courses. Our Minor Program enrolls students of the highest caliber, a trend likely to increase once a JSt Major program has been established. Through fund raising efforts and grant applications we are energetically working towards this goal. Already now, the Jewish Studies curriculum covers a wide range of interdisciplinary topics and receives intercultural impulses through the Jewish Muslim Initiative and symposia and lectures with an international focus. The 101-104 sequence in Hebrew provides access to Biblical texts and contemporary Jewish and Israeli culture. Courses on the Yiddish language and Central European Jewish society provide an introduction to aspects of Ashkenazic culture that plays a decisive role in shaping American Jewish life. Courses on the Holocaust, Displacement, and Immigration explore experiences that shape not only Jewish identity but the postmodern condition. (continued on page 4...)

Letter from the Associate Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues

My first year in the Jewish Studies Program has been exhilarating. Working closely with Dagmar Lorenz in JST and with Marla Baker in the Levine Hillel Center has been a great opportunity. Even as we finish a year full of events, we are embarking on more exciting ones like the Israel Scholar Program, a collaboration of Samuel Fleischacker, Robert Johnston, and Chuck Coughlin. We should have our first Israel Scholar, Shlomo Shoham, beginning at UIC in January of 2008. Paul Zakrezewski is conducting a site visit on April 25, a second step in the application process for the National Foundation for Jewish Cultures's University Expansion Project which would provide us with full time post grad lecturers. We are also in the process of widening the Jewish Studies minor to a major. We've had a wonderful series of events this year, which are detailed inside. This newsletter, is being put together by our wonderful student aide, Clare Knipper who is graduating this year. We have also supported many programs with JST connections on campus like Walter Reich with Criminal Justice and Ana Maria Shua with the Dept of Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese.



Nancy Gebhardt

In short, the Jewish Studies Program is dynamic and exciting and a great challenge to be a part of. I've enjoyed my first year here immensely and thank you all for your help, sometimes your patience, and I look forward to the opportunity to grow with the program in the years to come.

-Nancy S. Gebhardt

Jewish Studies Minor Student Milestones:

Join us in congratulating three Jewish Studies Minors graduating in Spring 2007!

Jorge Egal

Julia M. Geynisman

Liat Shetvet

Jennifer Wiemeyer

Jewish Studies Events

“A Land Without a People for a People Without a Land”: Teaching the Literature of Israel and Palestine Iris Bruce, McMaster University; September 20, 2006 at UIC Hillel



Bruce

Jewish Studies's first event of the 2006/07 academic year welcomed Professor Bruce from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Bruce discussed the difficulties in teaching Israeli and Palestinian literature. She presented a syllabus that she developed at Brandeis University's Summer Institute for Israel Studies in 2006 at this well attended luncheon which was co-sponsored by the Levine Hillel Center. She screened a silent film called *Second Watch* by director Udi Ben-Arie about two soldiers, one Israeli and one Arab, on either side of a desert border developing a relationship of mutual aid and respect during their long hours of 'maintaining border security.' A lively discussion, not without controversy, followed when UIC students in attendance questioned some of the contentious pieces Bruce includes in her syllabus.

Memory, Migration and Return. A Symposium in Honor of Arnost Lustig

November 12, 2006 Screening of *Transport from Paradise*

Introduction by **Herbert Eagle**, University of Michigan

November 13, 2006 “Fiction into Film: *Diamonds of the Night* and the Czech New Wave” **Alfred Thomas**, UIC



Lustig

Screening of *Diamonds of the Night* “Holocaust Memory and Film” **Gertrud Koch**, Freie Universitaet, Berlin Screening of *Fighter* “*Fighter: A Journey of Images*” **Sara Hall**, UIC Presentation by Film Director **Amir Bar-Lev**

Jewish Studies collaborated with the Prague Committee and the Petach Tikva committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program on this international symposium celebrating the 80th birthday of the renowned Czech writer, filmmaker, and Holocaust survivor, Arnost Lustig. On Sunday, Nov. 12, Herbert Eagle (U Mich) introduced the film *Transport from Paradise* based on Lustig's Holocaust experiences reflected in his short story collection *Night and Hope*. On

Monday morning, Nov. 13, Alfred Thomas (UIC JST) introduced the film *Diamonds of the Night*, about Lustig's experiences being transported from Prague to Auschwitz. On Monday afternoon, Amir Bar-Lev, the director of *Fighter* featuring Arnost Lustig and Jan Wiener re-tracing their Holocaust survival stories, presented his film at the Chicago Cultural Center. Gertrud Koch of the Freie Universitaet Berlin, discussed the film in a presentation, "Holocaust Memory and Film" and Sara Hall (UIC) discussed the film from a film studies point of view. The event was co-sponsored by the Dept. of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures, LAS, International Affairs, the Institute for the Humanities and the Departments of Germanic Studies, English, Political Science and the Levine Hillel Center in an admirable cross-campus collaboration.

January 23, 2007 “2300 Years of Jewish Presence in Crete”

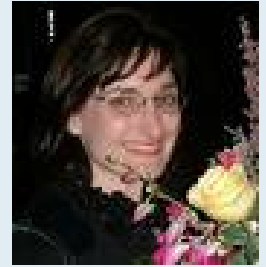
January 25, 2007 “The Last Remaining Jewish Monument on Crete” **Nicholas Stavroulakis**, artist, author of *Jews of Greece*, founder of the Jewish Museum of Greece, curatorial advisor to the Jewish Museum of Solonika, and director and renovator of Etz Hayyim, the last synagogue on the Greek Island of Crete



Stavroulakis

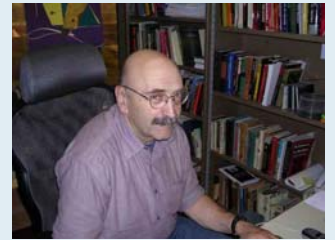
Nicholas Stavroulakis shared tales of his experiences while renovating this synagogue. A fascinating storyteller, Stavroulakis then presented a detailed history of Jews in Greece with little-known details of how the Christian community in Thessaloniki tried to thwart Nazi efforts to deport the Jews during their occupation in WWII. This event tied in with the Chicago Cretan community's presentation of the “Hidden Children of Occupied Greece” Exhibit at the Hellenic Museum. Planning and coordination with George Papadantonakis of the Chemistry Department and the Cretan Community helped to make this event a wonderful success creating new ties between UIC's JST and Chicago's Greek community.

“American Children Writing Yiddish”: Student Writing from Secular Yiddish Schools in Chicago Elizabeth Loentz, Department of Germanic Studies, UIC
October 4, 2006, University Hall 650, UIC



Loentz

“Antisemitism from A to Z: The Making of an Encyclopedia” Richard S. Levy, Department of History, UIC, November 8, 2006 University Hall 650, UIC



Levy

“Multiple Identities of Jewish Immigrants from the former Soviet Union: An Exploration of Salience and Impact of Ethnic Identity”
Dina Berman, Department of Psychology, UIC, January 24, 2007
University Hall 650, UIC



Birman

Jewish Studies Holiday Reception

**December 6, 2006
University Hall 650**

Jewish/Muslim Initiative

“Healing the Holy Land”
Yehezkeġ Landau,
Hartford Seminary
 October 11, 2007 at the
 Humanities Institute,
 Stevenson Hall, UIC

**“Whose Jerusalem? The
 Sanctity of the Holy City
 in Judaism, Christianity
 and Islam”** **Reuven
 Firestone, Hebrew Union
 College**
 October 30, 2007 at the
 Humanities Institute,
 Stevenson Hall, UIC

**“Muslim-Jewish Dialogue and
 the Israeli-Palestinian
 Conflict”** **Judea Pearl,**
**founder of the Daniel Pearl
 Foundation**
 March 7, 2007 Ogilvie
 Auditorium of the Chicago-
 Kent Law Campus, Chicago



The first lecture in the Jewish-Muslim Initiative’s 2006-07 series was by **Yehezkeġ Landau** on Wednesday, October 11. Landau talked about OPEN HOUSE Center for Jewish-Arab Coexistence that he and his wife Dahlia co-founded in Ramle, Israel. When they moved to Israel in 1948 Dahlia’s family had been placed in a house in Ramle where an Arab family had previously lived. After the 1967 Six Day War, that family came by to visit and the Jewish and Arab families entered into an agreement to turn the house into a peace education center where programs could be developed for seeking peaceful solutions to the continuing conflict.

The next speaker in this year’s JMI Series was **Reuven Firestone** of the Hebrew Union College. In his talk, titled “Whose Jerusalem? The Sanctity of the Holy city in Judaism, Christianity and Islam” Firestone surveyed the history of Jerusalem and its many claimants, highlighting the events that have added to the city’s mythical and spiritual reputation for so many for so long.

The final speaker in our series was **Dr. Judea Pearl**. The event was co-sponsored by the Chicago-Kent College of Law. It included a luncheon with the Dean of the Law School, Harold J. Krent, and many prominent alumni of the school such as the Honorable Harris W. Fawell, a retired U.S. Congressman, Caroline Schoenberger, former Commissioner of the City of Chicago, Department of consumer Services, Dolores K. Hanna, founder of the Dolores K. Hanna Trademark Prize. Dr. Pearl spoke before a large crowd in the Ogilvie Auditorium and fielded many questions on the issue of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Afterwards he signed copies of his book, *I Am A Jew*, inspired by his son, Daniel Pearl’s final words.

Lorenz continued...

Jewish Studies at UIC benefits from and contributes to the rich Jewish heritage and Jewish life in Chicago and the larger metropolitan area. Our location in the Maxwell Street area, once a center of Jewish immigration and a neighborhood of settlement houses such as Hull House, makes our Program heir to a legacy rich in Jewish tradition, and the diverse student population at UIC continues the legacy of intercultural learning. Our increasingly flourishing Jewish Studies Program is an integral part of this exciting campus and participates in the larger community life that includes Jewish cultural and religious institutions across Chicago.

Extending my gratitude to the students, faculty, administrators, friends, and staff, who have lent and continue to lend their support to the UIC Jewish Studies Program, I look forward to a prosperous academic year 2007/8.

Dagmar C. G. Lorenz, Ph.D.

Featured Students



Liat Shetret

Research Assistant, for Aaron David Miller, Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Research Assistant, for Gidon D. Remba and Mark Rosenblum of Peace Now Middle East Institute, Intern and Research Assistant

Emanuel Congregation, Sunday School Teacher

Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Operations, Lieutenant, Logistics Officer

All-USA College Academic Team – Honorable Mention

Jeff E. Lewis Scholarship for outstanding academic performance

Phi Kappa Phi Scholarly Project Grant for "Rabbi-Imam Dialogue"

Donald and Leah Riddle Prize for Outstanding Graduating Senior

Harold Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations

Student Leadership Award, University of Illinois Alumni Association

McKelvie Scholarship – Awarded one of twenty national annual prizes

J.W. Saxe Award – Recipient of one of ten annual nationally competitive awards for participation in a no-pay or low-pay public service internship

Young People For Fellowship – Promotion of social justice issues

Eileen and Michael Tanner UIC Public Service Award –

Jewish-Arab-Muslim Activism and Education, Co-founder, Board Member & Political Activist

Noah's Ark and Jewish United Fund Uptown Cafe, Volunteer

Israel at Heart, Fellow and Volunteer

"The commitment of the Jewish Studies Department faculty members to academic excellence and student development is truly admirable. For four years at UIC I have engaged in exhilarating and thought provoking discussions with professors and instructors who have made it a point to foster an understanding of Jewish texts, poetry and manuscripts, and have greatly contributed to my own Jewish identity. The Department has particularly assisted me in understanding my own heritage through historical and philosophical analysis as well as challenging classroom discussions. The Jewish-Muslim Initiative, the Department's response to a great void on our campus, has prepared me for my Middle-East focused career as it has emphasized tolerance and fostered intellectual debates that are rooted in knowledge and understanding of the "other side". I feel that the Jewish Studies Department has worked to great lengths to enrich campus life by attracting world-renowned speakers and thinkers and thus encouraging and facilitating solid and positive inter-faith campus interactions."



Julia Geynisman

Julia Geynisman is a Biology major and JST minor in the GPPA Medicine program. While at UIC, Julia also worked as the Israel Initiative intern for the Jewish Community Relations Council, contributed to several Honors College literary publications and worked for a research lab in the medical school. After graduating from UIC, Julia will intern at Partners in Health during the summer of 2007 and then spend a year in Israel on a Fulbright Fellowship, exploring the health policies of the Israeli Medical Association. Julia plans to go to medical school upon her return to the United States.

"I gained a great deal from the JST program at UIC because it allowed me the flexibility to design my own independent study classes that were finely tuned to my combined interests in the history of medicine and the middle east."

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Faculty Honors and Publications

Barry R. Chiswick, Head of Economics, UIC

Received the 2007 Marshall Sklare Award for significant contributions to the social scientific study of Jewry.

Sam Fleischacker, Department of Philosophy, UIC

Highlighted in a recent Pioneer Press article as a featured speaker for a local program on the relationship between Jews and Muslims.

Nancy Gebhardt, Associate Director of Jewish Studies, UIC

Accepted to Brandeis University's 2007 Summer Institute for Israel Studies. This program includes two weeks of study in Waltham, Mass., along with one week in Israel to develop a syllabus for a 100 level Israel Studies course for the Jewish Studies Program.

Richard S. Levy, Department of History, UIC

December 11-13, 2006, 3 day working consultation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the topic of Antisemitism.

Elizabeth Loentz, Department of Germanic Studies, UIC

Guest editor (with Sander L. Gilman) of [Beyond Klezmer: The Legacy of Eastern European Jewry](#). Author, "Yiddish, *Kanak Sprak*, Klezmer, and Hip-Hop: Ethnolect, Minority Culture, Multiculturalism, and Stereotype in Germany"