



TRANSFORMED BY THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

"My experience as a study abroad student at Tel Aviv University was one of the most special and memorable experiences of my life," says Religion and Criminal Justice major, Eden Heilman. The same sentiment was repeated again and again by students who have participated in the study abroad program, coordinated by the Center for Jewish Studies in conjunction with the UF International Center.



Eden Heilman

The Program provides students with the opportunity to spend a semester or a year of study in one of four Israeli universities. In addition to Tel Aviv University, students may attend University of Haifa, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, or Ben Gurion University of the Negev.



Laurie Epstein

During the spring semester of 2000, UF had a record 13 students studying in these programs. Irrespective of the chosen setting, students return feeling transformed by the land and its people. Eden Heilman explains, "I will never forget living on Kibbutz Gezer and working all day to accomplish a task and then celebrating at sunset for the day's work. I remember driving through the West Bank and staring at undeveloped land that gave off a pinkish hue as the sun was beginning to set. It was as if I was staring at a history and culture that was locked into the land around me."

(Continued on Page 4, Israel)

DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT by Cathy DeWitt

Dr. Warren Bargad officially announced his retirement as director of the Center for Jewish Studies, a position he held for fourteen years, and from the UF faculty. He was granted Professor Emeritus status from the University of Florida.

"I feel that the Center is on firm ground academically and financially, and I am confident of their future success," Bargad said.

When the Center first opened under the direction of Barry Mesch, it operated with virtually no budget, out of the Religion office.

"When Warren Bargad came, the University began to devote more serious resources to the Center," said former interim director, Rabbi Shaya Isenberg. "Under Warren's leadership, we began to accumulate an endowment which today allows us to bring major programs to the university and to Gainesville. A serious program in
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Warren Bargad

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DR. KENNETH WALD WELCOMED AS NEW DIRECTOR OF CJS

After a national search for a successor to Warren Bargad, the Center for Jewish Studies found its new director very close by - just about one block away in Turlington Hall.

In July, Kenneth D. Wald took over as the third permanent director in the Center's 25 years of existence. Wald has been at UF since 1983. A professor of political science, he has taught courses on Israeli politics, and religion and politics, that were part of the Center's curriculum.

"I told people who asked that there was only ONE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION ON CAMPUS THAT INTERESTED ME AND I EXPECTED IT TO BE FILLED FOR MANY MORE YEARS."

After completing a term as chair of the Department of Political Science in 1994, Wald had sworn off academic administration. "I told people who asked that there was only one administrative position on campus that interested me and I expected it to be filled for many more years." When Warren Bargad retired unexpectedly due to health problems, Wald found himself committed to seek the directorship. As the new director, Dr. Wald wants to expand the

scope of the Jewish Studies program at the University of Florida. "My major goals are to increase the opportunities for students to study all aspects of Jewish civilization, to enhance the academic quality of the program, and to expand our outreach beyond the UF campus."



Kenneth Wald

Under the Jewish Studies program at UF, students may earn a major or minor in Jewish Studies by taking courses in Jewish history, religious thought, language, literature, and politics. Each year, about 700 students enroll in Jewish Studies courses taught by nineteen faculty members and about 50 students major or minor in the subject. The Center also brings to campus each year a distinguished group of visiting lecturers from American and Israeli universities and promotes study abroad programs in Israel.

"I want to build on these strengths, which are the result of the labors of my predecessors, to produce an even stronger program," Wald commented.

(Continued on page 5, New Director)



THE JEWISH HERITAGE VIDEO COLLECTION

The Center for Jewish Studies is proud to announce its acquisition of the Jewish Heritage Video Collection (JHVC). The collection includes over 200 films and television programs from around the world.

Purchased separately, the JHVC would have cost tens of thousands of dollars, but the Center received numerous grants to aid in the purchase, including one from Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation. Additional expense was covered by a donation from UF alumnus Charles Ruffner (Business Administration, '58) and his wife, Nanette.

"An incredible range of the Jewish experience is covered," says director of Jewish Studies, Kenneth Wald. "The collection crosses many disciplines, so its applications are nearly endless. Entire courses can be taught using the collection, or individual films can be shown in specific classes."

English Professor Dr. Maureen Turim agrees. She envisions the collection being used to teach courses on the Jewish experience in America, children's literature, and gender issues, and says in addition, "historians may be attracted by the cultural history and representations of Jews in Israel and the US provided by the contents of the video collection." She also hopes that student groups, such as the Jewish Student Union, will use the JHVC to periodically organize a film series for educational purposes.

(Continued on page 3, Video Collection)

GILL SEDAN APPOINTED FIRST MIKKI AND MORRIS FUTERNICK VISITING PROFESSOR



Gil Sedan

The Center for Jewish Studies, with funding from the Mikki and Morris Futernick Visiting Professorship Fund, is proud to announce the appointment of Gil Sedan as the first Futernick Visiting Professor for Spring 2000.

Israeli journalist and leading commentator on Israeli Arabs, Sedan taught a history course on "The Israeli-Arab Conflict" during his appointment. The course focused upon the history of the Jewish State as well as the relation between history and current issues.

Sedan's goal, both as a teacher and as a journalist, has been aimed at fostering greater understanding between and about Arabs and Jews. Currently the editor and co-moderator of a weekly Israeli television news program entitled *Arabesque*, Sedan utilizes his role for just this purpose. "You see, I'm very strong into this business of Arab-Israeli relations because I think part of the problem is that

we don't understand each other; we don't know enough about each other. I think this [Arabesque] is a small contribution — not that I have any illusions that this will change things — but this is a small contribution to people knowing more."

"WE ALL KNOW MORE OF LESS WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT ONCE IT GETS TO DETAILS, YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GIVE THEM - TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THE STORY."

"The Israeli-Arab Conflict" is another such contribution. A critical difficulty encountered by Sedan in his efforts is that members of his audience, as well as members of his classroom, often only have a partial understanding of the issues. In other words, sometimes people think they fully understand the issues when they really don't.

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VIDEO COLLECTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

"The collection groups films nicely," says Turim. "It includes both fictional and documentary films in the context of a given topic." The JHVC groups films into 7 categories — children's films, comedy, the Holocaust, international Jewry, Israel, the Jewish experience in America, and religion and identity.

Perhaps surprisingly, selections such as *Annie Hall*, *The Jack Benny Show*, *Private Benjamin*, *Northern Exposure*, and *Goodbye Columbus* made the list — not exactly what one would expect to form part of a Jewish film collection. So why include them? Turim explains, "Interestingly, some of the films, such as *Private Benjamin*, may at first sight not seem particularly Jewish to most audiences, yet they do represent the Jewish experience." Therefore, use of such movies and programs may serve to broaden the student's experience of Jewish representation in film.

"INTERESTINGLY, SOME OF THE FILMS, SUCH AS PRIVATE BENJAMIN, MAY AT FIRST SIGHT NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY JEWISH TO MOST AUDIENCES, YET THEY DO REPRESENT THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE."

"Films are wonderful teaching tools," says Turim; "however, we also need to bring analytical tools to bear. None of the representations are self-evident. We need to put them in context through analysis."

Wald agrees that such films are valuable supplements to standard academic practices. He has used a number of titles in the collection to augment his course on politics in Israel. "Through lectures and academic readings, I try to give my students an

understanding of subjects like ethnic differences among Israeli Jews or tensions between Jewish and Arab Israelis," he commented. "Films like *Salah!*, a satire on the relations between eastern and western Jews in Israel, make the topic come alive. The powerful *Hamsin* brings home the tragedy of Jewish-Arab conflict in a very tangible way."

In addition to making the JHVC available for use throughout UF, Wald hopes to share the collection with interested area public schools. "Florida requires its high schools to teach Holocaust education, so we're looking into working with them on that," he says.

Gainesville area instructors and students now have access to selections such as *The Disputation*, *Hester Street*, *The Way We Were*, *Crossing Delancey*, *The Apprenticeship of Mordecai Richler*, *A Woman Called Golda*, *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Prisoner of Honor*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Au Revoir, Les Enfants*, *The Music Box*, *Schindler's List*, *Trial at Nuremberg*, *Biloxi Blues*, *My Favorite Year*, *An American Tail: Fievel Goes West*, *Esther*, and *Shalom Sesame*. ♦

Dr. Maureen Turim has published widely in the areas of theoretical, historical and aesthetic issues in cinema and video, art, cultural studies and psychoanalytic theory, and comparative literature. She currently offers a tripart course on film and the Jewish experience in the Department of English which consists of Yiddish films, Holocaust films, and Israeli cinema.

Written with assistance from John Elderkin

Faculty Profile: Professor Geoffrey Giles



Dr. Geoffrey Giles

German historian, UF faculty member for over 20 years, and future U.S. Holocaust Museum Scholar, Professor Geoffrey Giles has made major contributions to the field of Holocaust studies.

Initially specializing in the indoctrination of students in Nazi Germany, Dr. Giles started teaching courses on the Holocaust in 1993 at the urging of the Holocaust Education Foundation in Chicago. Dr. Giles described the foundation as “a group of people who got together, including a handful of Auschwitz survivors, and tried to figure out the best way they could keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.”

According to Dr. Giles, Theodore Z. Weiss, the president of the foundation, traveled to various universities around the country, “sort of bullying college presidents to give their support to these kinds of ventures.” And support it they did.
(Continued on page 7, Faculty Profile)



(ISRAEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Laurie Epstein agrees, describing her most memorable experiences as, “working and living on a kibbutz for two weeks, praying at the Western Wall for the first time, going to an all-night Israeli concert in Safed and hiking through the beautiful mountains and natural waterfalls of Yehudiya.” Through it all, Laurie’s attention kept returning to her own developing understanding of Jewish identity. She states, “I kept learning and taking in as much information as I could about what it is to be Israeli and what it is to be Jewish. Israel changed the way I view the world and helped me to grow enormously as an individual.”

Many returning students talk about experiencing personal and cultural growth. Lauren Feinberg comments, “Living in a country for five

months is very different than visiting for five weeks. It becomes your home and you feel just that: at home.”

While at Tel Aviv, Lauren took the time to travel throughout Israel and other countries in the Middle East. Reflecting on her travels, she notes, “Seeing the world undoubtedly changed my life. It has provided an enormous sense of independence and encouraged intense personal growth and maturity not found elsewhere.”

“I REMEMBER DRIVING THROUGH THE WEST BANK AND STARING AT UNDEVELOPED LAND THAT GAVE OFF A PINKISH HUE AS THE SUN WAS BEGINNING TO SET. IT WAS AS IF I WAS STARING AT A HISTORY AND CULTURE THAT WAS LOCKED INTO THE LAND AROUND ME.”

Eden Heilman returned from Israel with “a passion for a piece of land that means so much.” She says, “I learned in the classroom at Tel Aviv University, but I learned more from just living there. I explored and wondered through so many thoughts and ideas that I had never really examined. My experiences were powerful enough to give me a forum to do so. In one summer as a study abroad student, I grew more than I have in my four years of college.”

While studying at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Andrea Levine stated, “I’m having an incredible time, meeting amazing people, and traveling throughout Israel, Egypt and Europe. I recommend anyone who can go abroad to definitely go to Israel because it’s so rich in culture and has so much to offer. I’ve learned so much about myself here and about different cultures.”

However, the overseas study’s self-proclaimed prophet, Lauren Feinberg, said it best. After considering and then deciding against having these words tattooed across her forehead, Lauren advises, “Go there. Go anywhere. Study abroad!”

Note: Many UF students attend Israel programs with support from scholarship funds administered by the Center for Jewish Studies. The students quoted in this article received Philip and David Kolko Memorial Scholarships (created by Louis D. Cohen of Gainesville) and Norman Shulevitz Scholarships (funded by the Weiss family of Delray Beach). ♦



Jewish Studies Student Awarded Fulbright Scholarship To Study In Israel

A recent UF graduate in religion and political science, Hilit Surowitz was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem during the 1999-2000 academic year. While at UF, Hilit specialized in church/state relations, and she plans to pursue a career in ritual studies, specializing in African and Caribbean Jewish communities. She hopes to eventually work within the museum circuit or academia.



Hilit Surowitz

Hilit's current research will focus on the ritual and culture of the Ethiopian Jewish community, as well as the educational integration of community members in Israel. She applied for the Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research at Hebrew University because the best resources for studying the Ethiopian Jewish community are located within the city of Jerusalem. "The Beta Israel (as they are known) are centered in Ethiopia and more recently in Israel. Five of the seven scholars within the field live in Israel and all of the textual and human resources are most readily available in Jerusalem," she said.

Upon learning that she had been selected for the award, surprise was Hilit's first response. To this day, she continues to be surprised. "I applied for the Fulbright Scholarship mainly to gain the experience of applying for academic fellowships." As such, she fully expected a rejection letter. And a rejection letter is exactly what she received, at least initially. Hilit explains, "To tell you the truth, I was initially rejected from the Fulbright Foundation. I was not really disappointed since that had been my expectation. The day after graduation, I received notification via e-mail that I had been awarded a fellowship. My reaction was obviously one of surprise, joy, and excitement."

"MY PARENTS ALWAYS PUT THE EDUCATION THAT MY SISTER AND I RECEIVED AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR UPBRINGING. THEY WERE BOTH VERY INVOLVED IN OUR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT. THOUGH MY FAMILY IS CLOSE-KNIT, MY PARENTS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED ME TO PURSUE MY DESIRES, EVEN IF THEY TOOK ME FAR FROM HOME."

Hilit credits family members with providing her the support to succeed in her chosen field. She elaborates, "My parents always put the education that my sister and I received at the forefront of our upbringing. They were both very involved in our academic development. Though my family is close-knit, (Continued on page 8, Fulbright Student)



(NEW DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

As part of the enhanced curriculum, the Center is offering several new courses. During the spring semester, the distinguished Israeli journalist, Gil Sedan, taught a course on the history and evolution of Arab-Jewish relations in the Middle East. For the following academic year, faculty members are developing new courses on the geography of the Jewish population and on Jewish music. An anthropology course on comparative diasporas and a cultural analysis of Judaism are also in the planning stages.

"WE THINK OF THE CENTER AS A STATEWIDE RESOURCE," HE ARGUES, "AND IT SHOULD HAVE A STATEWIDE PRESENCE."

Wald is also eager to expand the off-campus study opportunities for Jewish Studies. He is working to develop a summer program that would enable students to join archeological digs in Israel. He is also determined to increase the number of UF students who study in Israeli universities. "We have a record number of students studying in Israel this spring semester," Wald noted with satisfaction, "and we expect even more to go over during the summer."

One of the new programs that gives Wald the greatest satisfaction is an internship in Jewish communal services. (See the profile on page 6)

"WE HAVE A RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS STUDYING IN ISRAEL THIS SPRING SEMESTER, AND WE EXPECT EVEN MORE TO GO OVER DURING THE SUMMER."

"Many of our students want to continue their involvement with Jewish Studies as adults but don't plan to become academics," he said. For these students and others who want to "heal the world" in the best Jewish tradition, Wald has created an internship program in which they receive academic credit for structured work in Jewish communal organizations.

The internship program is also part of the strategy to increase the Center's outreach. "We think of the Center as a statewide resource," he argues, "and it should have a statewide presence." To achieve that goal, Wald plans to offer some public programs around the state and to encourage Jewish institutions around Florida to use UF's Jewish Studies faculty members as guest lecturers, scholars-in-residence, and consultants.

"The quality of our faculty is too high to confine to Gainesville," Wald says. ♦

A MITZVAH IN THE MAKING: THE NEW CJS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

"For many students, the *mitzvah*, a commandment to go out and heal the world, is one of the most appealing aspects of Judaism. Our internships facilitate that desire," says Kenneth Wald, director of the Center for Jewish Studies.



Joclyn Schelin

Since the program's inception, a number of students have jumped at the opportunity to participate in the healing process in settings as diverse as museums, community centers, and Jewish newspapers. Joclyn Schelin chose to intern at the Mamonides' Society, Melissa Glassberg and Matt Fieldman are at the America Israel Public Affairs Committee, Daniel Levy and Aaron Cohen work with Hillel, Alan Goldkin is writing for the Gainesville Jewish Chronicle, Stephanie Levine is gaining experience at the Jewish Community Center Without Walls, Eli Joshua Schwartz has traveled to Orlando to intern with the Jewish Federation of Orlando, and Beth Rosenberg recently completed her work with Jewish Family Services of Jacksonville.



Alan Goldkin

The program is mutually beneficial to community members and students alike. Wald states, "The idea behind the internships is to make coursework relevant in the lives of our students, whether they plan to continue with academics or begin outside careers." In addition, "The program helps them discover the rich, active world of Jewish communal life out there. Jewish newspapers, family centers, political groups – many students aren't aware that these kinds of things exist."

And the students themselves concur. Alan Goldkin, currently completing an internship as a journalist for the



Debbie Paperman

Gainesville Jewish Chronicle, notes, "As a graduating senior who chose to major in Jewish Studies, I was delighted when Dr. Wald created the internship program. It is a 'win-win' concept, in that the student gains valuable experience and insight into the real world of Jewish service, and the community benefits from the student's energy and Jewish knowledge."

Community service work also helps students gain a sense of efficacy; they see that their efforts make a difference in the lives of others. This was the biggest lesson that Finance major, Joclyn Schelin, learned during her work with the Maimonides' Society. (Continued on page 8, Internships)

(PROFESSORSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

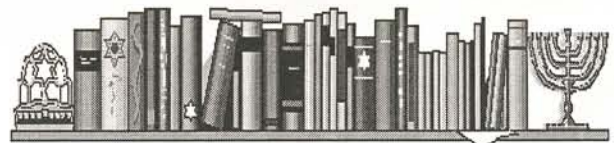
Speaking of this dilemma, Sedan notes, "We all know more or less what's happening, but once it gets to details, you suddenly realize you don't really understand the situation. That's what I have been trying to give them — to understand that there are two sides to the story."

"IT WAS NOT THAT ONE PARTY WAS JUST AND THE OTHER WAS EVIL, BUT THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO JUSTICES WHICH CLASH."

In the end, what does he hope will be understood? Both sides have a good case for their position. "It was not that one party was just and the other was evil, but there are actually two justices which clash. I think that's very important," said Sedan.

This is a lesson that Sedan tries to live out in his own personal and professional life. He notes, "Even though I am a Jew, I do try to see that the story has two sides." ♦

Aside from teaching "The Israeli-Arab Conflict," Sedan participated in two lectures during his stay. On February 17th, Sedan and May Seikaly served as a panelists for a discussion entitled "Roundtable: The Middle East Peace Process." Each provided expert commentary on the major issues in the peace process and the prospect for achieving lasting peace in the region. Then on April 13th, Sedan offered a lecture on "Israeli Arabs or Palestinian Israelis?: A Question of Identities," where he discussed the perspectives and struggles of Arabs who are also full citizens of Israel.



WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT "THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT"

"I've gotten a lot more insight into the problems between the Jews and the Arabs prior to 1948, and now I can see both sides more clearly."

STEPHANIE LEVINE, JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR

"He's done an excellent job of presenting the information in a fuller perspective on both sides. I feel I've learned a lot more about the perspectives of the Arabs and the perspectives of the Jews, and that has informed the way I approach the peace process to a greater degree."

ZACHARY MAZIN, POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

"The neat thing about Gil Sedan is that even though he is a Jew, he wants us to see the conflict from both angles. There isn't a good guy and a bad guy; each have their own sides."

ERIC SPUNBERG, ACCOUNTING MAJOR

(FACULTY PROFILE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

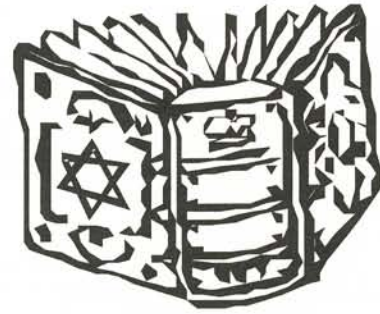
But the Foundation didn't stop there. Mr. Weiss also approached Giles to find out if there was anything the Foundation could do to help him teach the course more successfully. Without skipping a beat, Dr. Giles asked to be sent to Poland. He explains, "At the time I was using slides in my class on Western civilization with great success, getting away from the rather dry textbook and actually showing students some of these historical sites in Europe and Berlin and Paris and London and so on. The students seemed to love this. So I said, why don't we think about sending me to some of the death camps in Poland because a lot of the German historians I know have studied and lived and researched in Germany, but I don't know anybody who has been to Poland. None of us have ever been to Auschwitz, Maidanek, Treblinka, and so on. It really would help us to teach a course like this if we could go there and just explore the site and bring back some slides to use in the classroom of what we actually saw."

"I FOUND MYSELF LEADING A GROUP OF 40 PEOPLE THE FOLLOWING SUMMER TO POLAND AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC. IT WAS JUST A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE, VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US WHO WENT."

Well, not only did the foundation provide a grant for Dr. Giles to tour Poland, he was also asked to lead an educational tour for a group of professors. He comments, "I found myself leading a group of 40 people the following summer to Poland and the Czech republic. It was just a very moving experience, very important for all of us who went." As a matter of fact, it was so moving and important that he continues to lead such tours.

The popularity of Dr. Giles' class has grown since its inception. Beginning with an enrollment of 50 students per class, the course now accommodates 150 students. However, there is a downside to the increase. Dr. Giles lamented, "I don't have the personal contact with the students anymore because it breaks up once a week into discussion groups of 25 students and one T.A. I miss the discussion."

"ONE OF THE STRONG MESSAGES THAT COMES THROUGH IN THE COURSE IS THE TOTAL IRRATIONALITY OF PREJUDICE THAT EMERGES WHEN YOU LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN GERMANY. IT'S COMPLETELY IRRATIONAL, AND I THINK THAT DOES CAUSE STUDENTS TO REEXAMINE THEIR OWN ATTITUDES AND THINK PRETTY HARD ABOUT THE NEED FOR TOLERANCE AND ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING WHEN THEY HAVE INTOLERANT FEELINGS."



Nevertheless, the size of the class has not gotten in the way of its life-changing impact on students. "One of the strong messages that comes through in the course is the total irrationality of prejudice that emerges when you look at what happened in Germany. It's completely irrational, and I think that does cause students to reexamine their own attitudes and think pretty hard about the need for tolerance and about what they're doing when they have intolerant feelings. Some of them say that it's really changed their outlook and they're much more careful about what they say about others, about this otherness, about groups of other people."

There are currently over 300 college courses being taught in Holocaust Studies in the U.S.. Dr. Giles is proud of the role he played in making this happen. He has also recently been surprised with another major accomplishment. He was contacted by the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and invited to be next year's Shapiro Scholar-in- Residence. "I'm going to spend the whole of next year at the museum. What they want me to do is to follow up another of my research specialties, which is the history of sexuality, and write a book on the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany."

"I'M GOING TO SPEND THE WHOLE OF NEXT YEAR AT THE [HOLOCAUST] MUSEUM [IN WASHINGTON, D.C.]. WHAT THEY WANT ME TO DO IS TO FOLLOW UP ANOTHER OF MY RESEARCH SPECIALTIES, WHICH IS THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY, AND WRITE A BOOK ON THE PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS IN NAZI GERMANY."

So, what about the future? Dr. Giles shared his vision for Holocaust Studies at the University of Florida. "I think we can become a real center for research on the Holocaust, and that's going to be one of the focuses of fundraising in the future. I hope that my good fortune with the Holocaust Museum will lend even more credibility to that." ♦

(FULBRIGHT STUDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

my parents always encouraged me to pursue my desires, even if they took me far from home."

Although she has always enjoyed support and encouragement from her family, Hilit has also encountered a few obstacles along the way. The most challenging was her high school experience. She explains, "I went to an inner-city high school where we were expected not to achieve and were told that college was for those that were good in basketball and football."

Fortunately, Hilit proved them wrong, and has used her high school experience to fuel her interest in researching the educational integration of the Ethiopian community in Israel. She says that the topic is very controversial because "it deals with the overall failure of the Ministry of Education in Israel to fully and fairly integrate the Ethiopian community educationally. Many of the decisions about academic policy towards Ethiopians were made under false assumption and ignorance."

Thus far during her stay in Israel, Hilit has become involved with the Ethiopian Jewish community through a number of different venues. "I work for the Israel office of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, an organization responsible for much of the educational support for the Ethiopian-Israeli community. This work has allowed me to work with Ethiopian-Israeli students in middle and high school as well as participate and learn first-hand the educational policy process as it applies to the Ethiopian-Israeli community. I also work with a group for single mothers in an Ethiopian absorption center."

"I PAY AS MUCH ATTENTION TO A POLITICAL ARGUMENT THAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHILE RIDING ON THE CITY BUS AS I WOULD TO A FORMAL POLITICAL ARGUMENT STAGED BETWEEN POLITICIANS IN THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT (THE KNESSET). SO, EACH MOMENT I EXPERIENCE I AM BECOMING ENRICHED AND DEVELOPING MY RESEARCH TOOLS AS AN ETHNOGRAPHER — WHILE TRYING TO STAY AWAY FROM THE LIMITATIONS SET BY INSTITUTIONAL, POLITICALLY CORRECT ETHNOGRAPHY."

The Fulbright Scholarship has allowed Hilit to develop relationships with the Ethiopian Jewish community while developing her skills as a professional researcher. Hilit stated it best when she said, "I pay as much attention to a political argument that takes place between two people while riding on the city bus as I would to a formal political argument staged between politicians in the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset). So, each moment I experience I am becoming enriched and developing my research tools as an ethnographer—while trying to stay away from the limitations set by institutional, politically correct ethnography." ♦

(INTERNSHIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

She states, "Getting to work with so many kinds of people at so many different stages of life, it becomes clear to me that, at any given time, you're able to give back and help those that are less fortunate than you."

There are many ways that students can "give back." Some students 'gave back' by working in the arts. Interning at the Harn Museum of Art, Debbie Paperman "helped solicit and obtain materials from local residents to add to the exhibit" of pre-Holocaust Eastern European photographs by Roman Vishniac. On the other hand, Alan Goldkin took to writing. "As a roving reporter for the *Chronicle*, I keep abreast of the many events sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies, other campus institutions, and Hillel. My job, if you can call it that, is to attend these lectures, films, and exhibits, and to summarize them for the *Chronicle*."



Beth Rosenberg

"GETTING TO WORK WITH SO MANY KINDS OF PEOPLE AT SO MANY DIFFERENT STAGES OF LIFE, IT BECOMES CLEAR TO ME THAT, AT ANY GIVEN TIME, YOU'RE ABLE TO GIVE BACK AND HELP THOSE THAT ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOU."

Beth Rosenberg and Joclyn Schelin 'gave back' by working with Jewish elders. Beth Rosenberg states, "I visited regularly with women making the transition to life in a nursing home, and I met with a 'Lunch Bunch' of 8-10 seniors several times per month. I also gathered information from spiritual healing centers across the country and helped organize the Jewish Healing Network in Jacksonville." Joclyn Schelin developed an outreach program to assist elders in their attempt to live independently. She devised a volunteer effort to help seniors with financial matters, such as writing checks and balancing their accounts.

So, after completing their mizvot, what words of wisdom would these students like to impart to others who are considering the program? Psychology major, Matt Fieldman, says, "Being a leader in the Jewish community is a fun, educational, and rewarding experience." Joclyn Schelin advises, "Don't be intimidated by taking on a new type of class such as this one because, in the end, it is more rewarding than you could have ever imagined." In other words, JUST DO IT! ♦

Note: Beth Rosenberg will begin graduate studies in social work at Yeshiva University this fall.

This article was written with the assistance of John Elderkin

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES ACQUIRES NEW SPACE

Unlike many other religions, Judaism confers sacred status on time (the Sabbath) rather than space. Nonetheless, Center for Jewish Studies personnel recently offered praise and thanksgiving when they acquired new space for their operations.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has allocated three additional rooms in Walker Hall to the Center. These rooms, adjacent to the existing Jewish Studies offices, have been renovated and will house the expanded operations of the Center.

"On a college campus like UF," said Center director Kenneth Wald, "space is one of the most scarce and valued commodities. We appreciate the College's vote of confidence in allocating us the additional space to serve our students."

Two of the rooms have been converted into a seminar/conference room. This necessitated knocking out a wall that had divided the space into two small offices. The availability of this room will enhance Center operations in several ways.

"This room will be ideal for small classes," the director commented. "It's a warm, intimate environment that will encourage students to discuss their ideas with their professors in a seminar setting." The room will also provide space for meetings of the Center faculty and the periodic lunches that the Center holds for visiting speakers.

The other room will be converted to a library/student lounge. The director would like to create a space where Jewish Studies students can relax, chat, and drink coffee during the day.

"We hope to furnish this room with Hebrew language periodicals and encourage students to converse in Hebrew," Wald said. This experiment will be tried in the fall semester when a new course in conversational Hebrew is offered. ♦

F A L L 1 9 9 9 / S P R I N G 2 0 0 0 C O U R S E S

AFRICAN & ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

- ❖ *Beginning Modern Hebrew 1*
- ❖ *Honors Beginning Modern Hebrew 1*
- ❖ *2nd Year Modern Hebrew 1*
- ❖ *3rd Year Modern Hebrew 1*
- ❖ *Biblical Hebrew*
- ❖ *Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature 1*
- ❖ *Beginning Modern Hebrew 2*
- ❖ *2nd Year Modern Hebrew 2*
- ❖ *3rd Year Modern Hebrew 2*
- ❖ *Reading Classical Hebrew*
- ❖ *Israeli Literature in Translation*
- ❖ *Introduction to Semitic Languages*

RELIGION

- ❖ *Introduction to Judaism*
- ❖ *Introduction to Talmud*
- ❖ *Early Judaism & Christianity*
- ❖ *Early Rabbinic Judaism*
- ❖ *Hebrew Scriptures*
- ❖ *Modern Jewish Thought*
- ❖ *Jewish Mysticism*
- ❖ *Jesus & Judaism in Historical Fiction*
- ❖ *Biblical Figures in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- ❖ *Politics of Israel*
- ❖ *Religion and Politics in the U.S.*
- ❖ *The Israeli-Arab Conflict*

ENGLISH

- ❖ *Jewish-American Fiction*
- ❖ *Fiction of Philip Roth*

HISTORY

- ❖ *History of the Holocaust*

(DIRECTOR RETIRES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hebrew has evolved and we now have nineteen faculty teaching courses, serving 600-700 students a year." The Center lecture series, featuring such noted speakers as Elie Wiesel, Yael Dayan, Yehuda Amichai, and recently, Alan Berger and Gil Sedan, has attracted lively audiences of community members, students and faculty.

During his retirement, Warren Bargad remains in Gainesville and has been active in the Community Band and other musical activities. ♦

The Center has established a Warren Bargad Endowment Fund to honor him for his years of outstanding service.

Updated by Elaine Casquarelli

STUDENT PROFILE: MATTHEW FIELDMAN

What do AIPAC, OTZMA, and Jewish community building have in common? Matthew Fieldman. A graduating student in psychology, with a minor in Jewish Studies, Matt just completed an internship with the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Primarily responsible for event planning and lobbying, Matt helped coordinate a statewide educational conference for Florida students. He elaborates, "We brought students from all over the state – from FSU, Miami, FAU, USF, FIU – to UF to learn about the importance of the America-Israel relationship and how they can influence it. We wanted them to learn about Campaign 2000 and how they can influence that, as well."

A subsidiary goal was to provide a forum for students from all over the state to meet one another and learn about their interests.



Matthew Fieldman

Initially, Matt and his colleagues had hoped for an attendance of 200. Due to their hard work in publicizing the event, their expectations were exceeded. "We won't be able to see the effects for a long time, commented Matt, but we were able to raise the level of knowledge and interest in the America-Israel relationship, and that was our goal."

Following graduation in May 2000, Matt will be participating in OTZMA, a 10 month volunteer program. Beginning in August, Matt will leave for Israel where he will conduct volunteer work in a number of different settings. "The neat thing about OTZMA is that there is a lot of choice. I'll be doing volunteer work in a bunch of different settings, like an immigration absorption center, a military base, a kibbutz, or other community settings." Matt will also learn Hebrew and tour the country during his stay.

And then what? That's exactly what Matthew hopes to figure out in the meantime. He explains, "I hope to return with a real sense of what I want to do in my life. I don't know that yet, and hopefully a year in Israel will teach me whether I want to do more work in the Jewish community or get a business or law degree. After 10 months working in Israel without school on my mind and the stresses of everyday life, I think I'll get a sense of direction and purpose." ♦

CJS PROUDLY WELCOMES NEW JOINT PROFESSOR OF JEWISH STUDIES AND RELIGION

HOLD THE PRESS!

The Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Religion are delighted to announce the hiring of Dr. Leah Hochman. Dr. Hochman, who will begin teaching at UF in the fall semester, is the recent recipient of a Ph.D. from Boston University. Her major scholarly interest is the philosophy of Moses Mendelssohn.

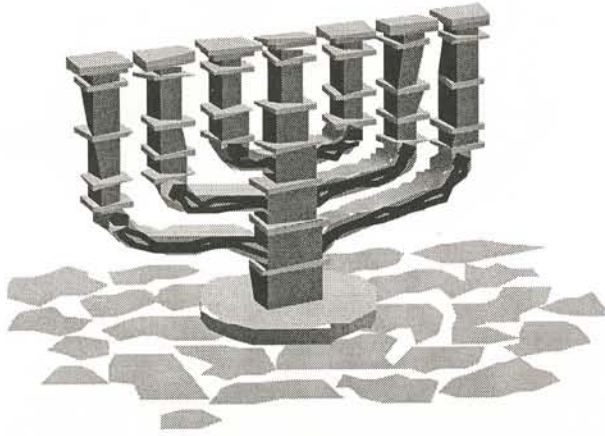
"Although she is a new Ph.D., Leah is unusually accomplished for such a young scholar," noted Center for Jewish Studies director Kenneth

Wald. She has already received research funding from major foundations and has an extensive teaching background at both Boston College and Boston University.

She will teach the Introduction to Judaism course as well as more specialized courses on Gender and Judaism, Modern Jewish Thought, literature and Jewish identity.

"By authorizing this joint line," Wald commented, "the College has demonstrated its commitment to expanding the range of Jewish Studies courses available to UF students." ♦

SPRING 1999 SILVER ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES



The 1999 Silver Anniversary Lecture Series included a vast array of topics that ranged from multiculturalism to the Holocaust. The series was inaugurated by a partnership between CJS and Jewish Student Union's Jewish Awareness Month. Together, a lecture by Rabbi Levi Lauer was sponsored, entitled "*The Certainty of Ambiguity: Israel's Religious Problematics.*"

Rabbi Lauer has had a distinguished career of service to the Jewish community. Both in the US and Israel, he has been at the forefront of Jewish education. He has served as the Dean of the Brandeis-Bardin Collegiate Institute, and as the Executive Director of Hillel at the University of Missouri while teaching in the UM Department of Religion. He



Rabbi Levi Lauer

is a Founder of the Pardes Foundation of Jewish Studies and acted as the Executive Director of the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. He was the Senior Scholar and Director of Long-Term Projects at the Melitz Institute for Jewish and Zionist Education until 1998, at which time he took his current position as director of Israel-Diaspora Education at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, Israel.

In March, award winning author and Professor in the Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Julius Lester addressed multiculturalism in his lecture entitled



Dr. Julius Lester

"Blacks and Jews: Where We Are and What We Can Do."

Dr. Lester has received many faculty awards and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education selected him as the State Professor of the year. He serves as lay religious leader of Beth El Synagogue in Vermont. A veteran of the civil rights movement, Lester's photographs of that movement were included in a Smithsonian exhibition and are part of the permanent collection at Howard University.

Also in March, Attorney John Loftus was brought to the University of Florida by CJS and JSU to speak about the "*The Nazi Connection in America.*"

While working for the US Justice Department's Nazi War Crimes Unit during the late 1970's, Counselor Loftus discovered documents revealing that the Nazis he was prosecuting were working for NATO intelligence. He resigned and exposed the scandal on 60 Minutes as well as in his own published works. He is an international advisor on Nazi prosecution, and has authored several books and received numerous humanitarian awards. His non-profit foundation, The Loftus Fund, educates Americans about the dangers of communism, fascism, and indifference.

Rounding out the lecture series, CJS, in conjunction with Jewish Awareness Month, co-sponsored two performances by Claudia Stevens. The performances were entitled, "*A Table Before Me*" and "*An Evening With Madame F.*"



Performer, Claudia Stevens

The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Stevens is a musician, actress and playwright. She has performed on TV and radio and at venues such as Carnegie Recital Hall and the Kennedy Center. Her acclaimed one woman show seeks to capture life under the oppression of the Holocaust through music, song and drama. In "*A Table Before Me,*" Stevens used family memorabilia to tell the story of the "step-by-step stripping away of property and dignity in prelude to the 'Final Solution.'" "*An Evening With Madame F*" depicted the survival story of women musicians in a concentration camp.



Fall 1999 Program Series

In the fall of 1999, CJS began an exciting partnership with the University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies. Together they hosted an art opening for Professor William Weismantel's photographic exploration of Jewish Latin-American life. The opening included a showing of the film "Sosúa" from the series *Jews in Many Lands* and a lecture by Professor Gerald Murray entitled "From Holocaust to Hispaniola: Jewish Refugees in the Dominican Republic."

Sosúa was settled in 1940 as a rural community for Jewish refugees. The settlers came from large European towns, and upon arrival, created a community with an economy based on dairy products. Currently, historic sites are being replaced by modern structures, such as night clubs, hotels, and second homes. The exhibit was created by Professor Weismantel and Dominican students in 1985. At the time, Dr. Weismantel was a visiting professor from the University of Florida's College of Architecture.

Dr. Murray is a University of Florida anthropologist who has worked for several decades in the villages and urban centers of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He has published textbooks on microenterprise and has been an active member of the Jewish community in the Dominican Republic, where he has taught introductory Hebrew and has had lengthy interactions with Holocaust refugees and their descendants. His talk chronicled the establishment of a refugee community over half a century ago and offered an anthropological perspective on the competing forces that lead either to the disappearance or survival of Jewish identity in settings such as that of the Caribbean.



Eric Meyers



Joe Nicastrì

Later in the season, The Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Judaic Studies and Religion at Duke University, Dr. Eric Meyers, offered a lecture entitled "Ancient Sepphoris: Ornament of all Galilee & City of Peace." Sepphoris was capital of Galilee in the time of Jesus and played a unique role in the Great Revolt against Rome in 66-70 CE. It was also home to Rabbi Judah the Patriarch who edited and published the Mishnah there ca. 200 CE. The stunning mosaics found during the recent excavations illustrate how much at home the Jews were in Greco-Roman culture in Roman Palestine.

Turning from anthropology and scholarship to art, Miami based artist Joe Nicastrì rounded out the fall series by presenting a mixed media exhibition entitled, "Surplus of Memory." Through his work Nicastrì attempts to present the tragedy of the victims of the Holocaust. His work takes us beyond the time and place of Hitlerian Germany and insists that the dehumanization and victimization of so many is part of a continuing context of intolerance and exclusion which plagues us through today. "Surplus of Memory" included collaborations with Sherri Tan. The exhibition was on loan from the Shira and Jeffrey Reiss Collection. ♦

Spring 2000 Program Series

During the Spring 2000 Program Series, CJS continued to build its relationships with other university groups in efforts to bring some of the most innovative and expert guest lecturers to the Gainesville area. Programs were co-sponsored with the UF International Center, the Jewish Student Union's Jewish Awareness Month, Hillel, the Arabic Cultural Association, UF Student Government, and the Harn Museum of Art.

A Roundtable on the Middle East Process set the lecture series in motion. CJS, the International Center, and the Arabic Cultural Association worked together to host Gil Sedan and May Seikaly as panelists for this event. Major negotiation issues, the views of the major parties to the conflict, and the prospects for achieving a lasting peace in the region were discussed.

Associate Professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies at Wayne State University, Dr. May Seikaly specializes in Modern and Contemporary History of the Middle East and North Africa. She has published in the areas of general history, women's studies and oral history.



May Seikaly

Gil Sedan is one of Israel's most respected journalists and co-host of the influential *Arabesque* television series on Israel Television's Channel 2. The first Futernick Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at UF, Gil Sedan taught a course entitled *The Israeli-Arab Conflict*.

(Continued on page 13, 2000 Lecture Series)



CJS assisted the Harn Museum of Art in coordinating a lecture by Catherine Soussloff entitled "Jewish Identity and Visual Representation at the End of the Twentieth Century." The lecture was offered in conjunction with the exhibition entitled "Perpetual Well: Contemporary Art from the Collection of the Jewish Museum."



Catherine Soussloff is Professor of Art History and Visual Culture at UC Santa Cruz, and Editor of *Jewish Identity in Modern Art History* (1999). She also authored *The Absolute Artist: The Historiography of a Concept* (1997). Her areas of expertise include European aesthetics and historiography, Jewish culture and representation, and early modern Italian art.

Jewish Awareness Month was celebrated by CJS with the Jewish Student Union, Hillel, and Student Government by bringing Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Alan Dershowitz to the University of Florida.

Author of the best-selling book entitled "Kosher Sex," Rabbi Boteach discussed relationships and the meaning and role of kosher sex. Former resident Rabbi of Oxford University, he also founded the L'Chaim Society, an organization that combines intellectual debate with religious celebration. In addition to *Kosher Sex*, Rabbi Boteach has authored *Moses of Oxford*, *The Jewish Guide to Adultery*, and forthcoming books *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Judaism and Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*.



Rabbi Boteach

Alan Dershowitz drew a large crowd of students and community members to the discussion of his new book, *The Vanishing American Jew*.



Alan Dershowitz

He argued that American Jews are in danger of disappearing as a distinct cultural group and proposed a strategy for safeguarding Jewish identity in future generations. Perhaps best known for his legal defense of O. J. Simpson, Alan Dershowitz is a distinguished

professor of Law at Harvard Law School. In addition to *The Vanishing American Jew*, Professor Dershowitz has authored *Chutzpah*, *Reasonable Doubts: The Criminal Justice System and the O. J. Simpson Case*, *the Abuse Excuse*, and *Reversal of Fortune*.

While Alan Dershowitz addressed the future of Jewish identity, Alan Berger turned to memory of the past. Specifically, asked Berger, should second generation Germans and Jews initiate dialogue with one another? In "*Germans and Jews: Holocaust Memory in the Second Generation*," he discussed the similarities and differences among Jews and Germans of the second generation who attend to the claims of Holocaust memory. The responses of these two second generations revealed that they are both shaped by, and help shape, memory of the Shoah.



Alan Berger

Dr. Berger occupies the Raddock Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies and is the Director of the Holocaust and Judaic Studies B.A. program at Florida Atlantic University. He is currently Editor of the series, *Religion, Theology, and the Holocaust* and Associate Editor of *Studies in American Jewish Literature*.

Finally, Israeli journalist and new Futernick Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at UF, Gil Sedan, brought the lecture series to completion with his presentation on "Israeli Arabs or Palestinian Israelis?: A Question of Identities."



Gil sedan

Considered full citizens of Israel, many Israeli Arabs are torn between their allegiances to their brethren and the Jewish State. Sedan discussed their perspectives, their struggles, and how these may affect peace within the region.

Leading commentator on Israeli Arabs, Gil Sedan is the editor and co-moderator of a weekly television program entitled *Arabesque*. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the annual prize of the Inter-religious Committee for contribution to Jewish-Arab understanding, and the annual Yitzhak Rabin prize of Ben-Gurion University. ♦

INTRODUCING THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES STAFF



Kayla Sosnow

Kayla Sosnow, 33, daughter of Rhoda and Bob Goldstein and Nathan Sosnow, was raised in Danvers, Massachusetts, 20 miles north of Boston, and attended Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody. She excelled in hula-hooping, violin and academics. At Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, she

pursued her interest in tikkun olam (healing the world) through social justice work. She earned a degree in industrial and labor relations in 1989, going on to organize for five different labor unions. Kayla later turned her attention to homelessness, working in the streets and residential programs. She moved to Gainesville in 1996, landing the Program Assistant position at the Center for Jewish Studies. Kayla manages the Center's finances and coordinates the lecture series, among other responsibilities. Kayla's interests include bicycling, organic gardening, working out, films, theater, music, social activism, investing, and exploring Jewish spirituality. Kayla is single and lives with three housemates on their "urban kibbutz." She can be reached through the Center for Jewish Studies at 352-392-9247 or at ksosnow@jst.ufl.edu.

Elaine Casquarelli, graduate assistant for the Center for Jewish Studies, is currently seeking a specialist degree in mental health counseling from the Counselor Education Department at the University of Florida. She holds bachelor of arts degrees in Sociology and Religious Studies,



Elaine Casquarelli

and completed a Master of Arts degree in Theology in 1995. Elaine hopes to enter the field of career services, providing career counseling and facilitating workshops in the areas of vocational and skill development. Her specialties within the field include spirituality and work, women's career issues, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual vocational concerns. Elaine was initially attracted to the graduate assistantship position at the Center for Jewish Studies because of her interest in workshops and presentations. She is responsible for creating and distributing the publicity for the Center's programming series, and is editor of the current edition of Amudim.

Hi, my name is Julie Ruderman and I am a student assistant at the Center for Jewish Studies. I graduated with honors in 1997 from Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, NY. I was very involved in many high school activities. I was the captain of Varsity Cheerleaders and captain of the Debate Team. I was very active in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and served in many positions including chapter president and on the New York City regional board. I received President of the Year 1995-1996. B'nai B'rith



Julie Ruderman

sponsored my trip on the March of the Living, which is a two week Holocaust remembrance trip to Poland and Israel. The trip was a remarkable educational experience for me. I now serve at UF as secretary on the March of the Living Alumni Association executive board. This group

plans events that promote Holocaust education in the University of Florida and Gainesville communities. I am a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and have held positions on the formal and art committees. I worked with ACCENT for 2 years, helping to bring prominent speakers to the University of Florida. I served on the public relations committee and as Assistant Director for programming. This coming May, I am going to Israel once again! I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree from Warrington College of Business, majoring in Decision and Information Sciences.

My name is Jeremy Cohen and I'm a student assistant at the Center for Jewish Studies. I graduated in the top of my class from J.P. Taravella High School in Coral Springs, FL. In High School I was an active participant in many community service projects. These projects included working with mentally and physically challenged children at the JCC, and bringing food to homeless shelters. During High School I started my first rock n' roll band called Squeekball. We played many shows in the South Florida area and actually traveled to Los Angeles,



Jeremy Cohen

California to record an album for a new independent label. Unfortunately this label never got off the ground, so the deal fell through. Upon entering college we changed the band's name to The Pawn Rook Four, (Continued on page 15, Staff Profiles)

(STAFF PROFILES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

and started to build a fan base in the Gainesville area.

Currently we are playing around the Southeast in support of our nationally distributed album entitled "Songs for a Romantic Evening". Our website, www.thepr4.com, gives up-to-date information on the band including tour dates and pictures.

I have been playing guitar since I was eight, and singing since I started to talk. My favorite band is the Beatles and their music has been a huge influence

on my songwriting, singing, and performance skills.

Currently, I am an Anthropology major with minors in Classics and History at the University of Florida. I plan on attending UCLA law school to become an entertainment lawyer so I can help local rock bands get to the national level. In my position as student assistant, I take care of all the bills, files for upcoming events, and basically help out wherever I am needed. I can be reached at morganpr4@aol.com. ♦



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