

SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®

2019 Newsletter

A Night of Testimony | 20

Tolerance Promotion | 22

New Courses | 26

The Alumni Issue
25 Years in the Making | 12

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

FACULTY NEWS

EVENTS



Letter from **Alan Levenson**

Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic Studies

Israel Scholarships, including one recipient who will engage in advanced ballet training at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and one U.S. Marine veteran who will be pursuing intensive language instruction at the Rothberg International School.

Our core faculty continues to be highly visible locally, nationally and internationally. Several of us presented or chaired sessions at the annual Association of Jewish Studies in Boston (December 2018). This past year, professors Levenson, Shepkaru, Schapkow, Seidelman and Grinberg spoke in Manchester, Santa Fe, Tokyo, Berlin, Beersheva and Philadelphia... and more. We give kudos in subsequent pages for faculty publications, presentations and awards, but special applause go to Rhona Seidelman's *Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel's Gate*, Carsten Schapkow's *Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in the Twenty-First Century*, Jill Hicks-Keeton's *Arguing with Aseneth* and Tyson Putthoff's *Gods and Humans in the Ancient Near East*.

Our Schusterman Center faculty is younger, more gender and religiously diverse than at the center's creation in 2014, and we are looking forward to celebrating our Silver anniversary in 2020 with as many of you as possible.

Centripetal force, as in nature, exerted its pull at the OU Schusterman Center. Our exceptionally committed associated faculty initiated: an OU/Hillel vigil following the Pittsburgh shootings, the publication of "11 Books for Tolerance and Understanding" in *World Literature Today*, a Humanities Forum Symposium on "Fascism, America and Human Rights," a symposium on the Bible and Archaeology, a keynote address at the annual TeachOUT on racism, a David Friedman Retrospective at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and more. We gladly served as a resource and partner for all of our students, OU Hillel and Oklahoma's Jewish organizations. We also reached out to churches, OU student groups and non-denominational community agencies. This summer, we hosted a third annual OK Holocaust Educators Conference.

Judaic and Israel Studies courses enrolled 844 students in 35 courses over the last year. We also won approval for two new introductory courses: "The Artist's Bible: From Mosaics to Graphic Novels" and "Jews: From Abraham to Zionism." We saw a diverse range of winners for the Study in

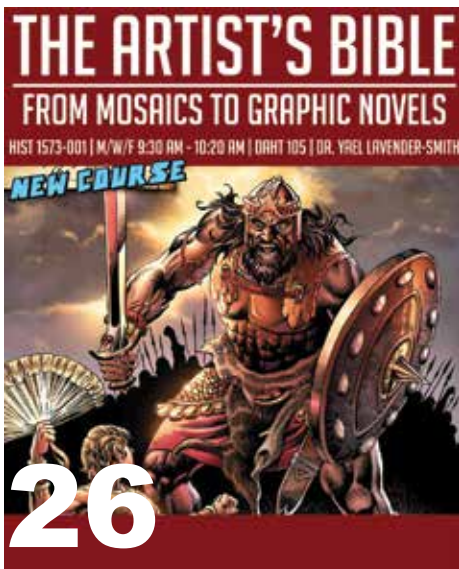
INSIDE



- 4 UPDATE FROM JERUSALEM
- 5 KUDOS/CONGRATULATIONS
- 10 STUDENT NEWS
- 11 JUST A BIT MORE NEWS



- 12 ACROSS THE DECADES: 25 YEARS OF ALUMNI
- 18 EVENTS
- 20 A NIGHT OF TESTIMONY
- 22 TOLERANCE PROMOTION



- 24 ABOUT THE CENTER
- 26 PROGRAMS AND COURSES
- 28 SCHOLARSHIPS
- 30 SUPPORT THE CENTER



Update from Jerusalem

Noam Stillman

Emeritus Professor and Founding Director

bond to my subject when I was the keynote speaker at a conference on Sefrou (“the little Jerusalem of Morocco”) at Bar-Ilan University. I wrote a book and numerous academic articles in English, French and Hebrew about the history of the town and its idiosyncratic Judeo-Arabic dialect, and I had personal ties to the picturesque town through the bonds of marriage. I gave the opening talk at the University of Pennsylvania, my alma mater, and I moderated the closing roundtable at the Association for the Study of Jewish Languages at the Hebrew University. I published two articles this past year: “The Jews of the Medieval Islamic West: Acculturation and its limitations” in the *Journal of the Middle East and Africa* and “Islamici nil a me alienum puto: The Mindset of Jewish Scholars of Islamic Studies” in a volume titled *Modern Jewish Scholarship on Islam in Context: Rationality, European Borders, and the Search for Belonging*. I continued to serve as a member of doctoral dissertation committees at OU, including our own Jesse Weinberg’s.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noam Stillman'.

Once again, this has been a fulfilling year, and I proudly represent OU at academic gatherings around the world and in my writing. I was one of three plenary speakers at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, whose Academic Council I chair. I was keynote speaker at a conference on Displacements of Jewish Communal Life in Islamic Lands and Cultural Reconstruction in Israel at the Center for Jewish History in New York. I moderated and commented for a panel on North African History at Haifa University. One lecture that gave me a special sense of satisfaction was at the Ben-Zvi Institute Conference on the German scholars, who were among the founding fathers of the Hebrew University. I spoke about the life and work of my mentor, the great S. D. Goitein, who had such an enormous impact upon my life and work. I felt a similar emotional

KUDOS/CONGRATULATIONS



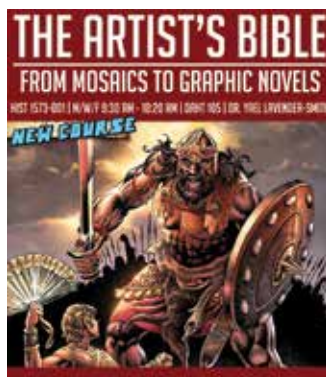
Alan Levenson

Alan Levenson spoke about antisemitism often this year, including for the Santa Fe Distinguished Lecture Series. He spoke on “Maurice Samuel: The Last Jewish Humanist” at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, as well as at our “sister” Schusterman

Center in Austin, Texas. He gave the opening lecture at the 2019 Holocaust Educator’s Conference, hosted in cooperation with the OKC Jewish Federation, the ADL and Headington College.

Winning a CAS Senior Faculty Summer Fellowship, he traveled to Manchester, UK, to complete research on Samuel, who grew up and attended the university there. Levenson debuted the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes course “Comparing Biblical Nations: Israel and the United States,” and successfully gained university approval for the courses “The Artists’ Bible” and “The Jews from Abraham to Zionism.”

Levenson published “Judaic Texts and Their History” in *Harvard Theological Review* (112:2, 2019); “Modernity” in *The Routledge Companion to Jewish History and Historiography* (2019); and “David Ben-Gurion, the Bible, and the Case for Jewish Studies and Israel Studies” in Carsten Schapkow’s edited volume (see following page). His major essay, “Invidious Distinctions: Hebraism and Hellenism,” was accepted for publication in *Jewish Quarterly Review*.



Rhona Seidelman

Rhona Seidelman’s book, *Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel’s Gate* is due out with Rutgers University Press in December 2019. It tells the story of Shaar Ha’aliya, Israel’s central immigration camp as of

1949. Focusing on the conflicts surrounding the camp’s medical quarantine, Professor Seidelman argues in this book that we cannot fully understand Israel until we understand Shaar Ha’aliya and its complicated role as the country’s largest center of arrival for hundreds of thousands of immigrants. A research project Seidelman is collaborating on was awarded a prestigious grant from the Israel Science Foundation. This project, “Health, Science and Nation Building: Chaim Sheba and the Creation of the Israeli Bio-Medical Research and Health Systems,” is being led by two of Israel’s foremost historians of science, Nurit Kirsh (Open U) and Ari Barell (BGU).



Shmuel Shepkaru

Shmuel Shepkaru delivered “Jewish Martyrdom” for Norman’s Medieval Fair Lecture Series, and “The Relationship between Jewish and Christian Martyrdom” at the International University in Tokyo, Japan, in the spring.

He received an Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship Award from OU’s Office of the Vice President for Research in 2018 for his book project on the history of martyrdom. Shepkaru enjoyed a sabbatical during spring 2019, and will kick off the

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

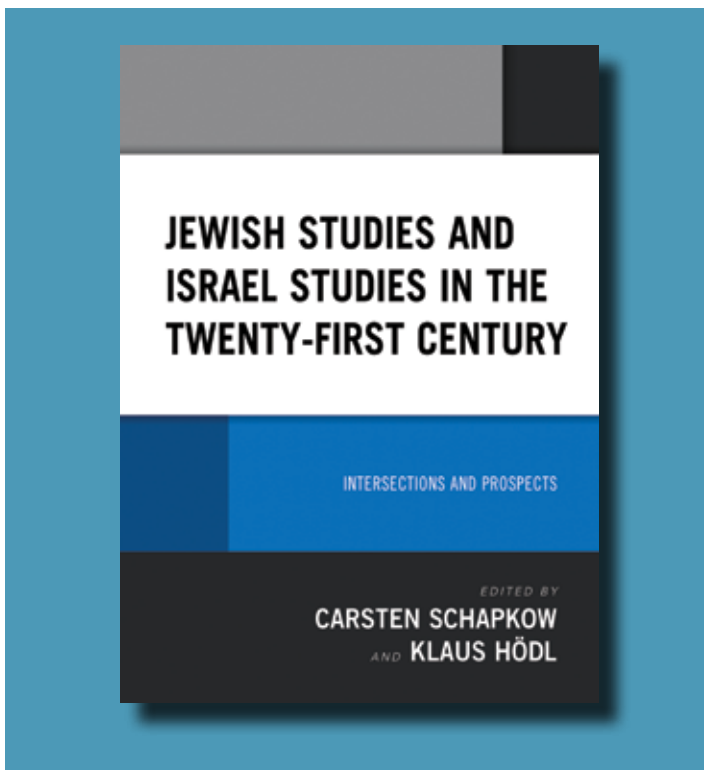
upcoming year of JuSt Lunch Lectures (see page 18).



Carsten Schapkow

Carsten Schapkow

published several articles, including “Jewish History, Intellectual History and the History of Ideas” in the *Routledge Companion to Jewish History and Historiography*, edited by Dean Bell; “Iberisch-sephardisches Judentum in der Wissenschaft des Judentums: Aneignung, Abgrenzung, kulturelle Vermittlung,” which appeared in *Jüdische Übersetzer als Akteure interkultureller Transformationen*, edited by Rafael Arnold and published by UWH; “Die Russischen Revolutionen von 1917: Ein Wendepunkt aus jüdischer Perspektive,” in *Die Wahrnehmung der Russische Revolution 1917*, edited by Frank Jacob and published by Metropol in July 2019. He was re-elected as vice chairman of the German Association for Jewish Studies last June, and celebrated the publication of his edited volume with Lexington Books:



Ronnie Grinberg

Ronnie Grinberg spent the fall 2018 semester as a Faculty-in-Residence at the University of Oklahoma's International Study Center in Puebla, Mexico, along with her husband, Marc Levine, a Mesoamerican archaeologist who researches in Oaxaca, Mexico, and their 4-year-

old daughter. Fifteen wonderful OU undergraduates took part in the program. In Puebla, Grinberg taught a course on the global 1960s, with a focus on the 50th anniversary of 1968 and its repercussions in the United States and Latin America.

Her sojourn to Mexico was also conducive to writing. She enjoyed working on her book manuscript in coffee shops and in an apartment with a glorious view of the city and the volcano, Malinche. Her book on the New York intellectuals is under contract with Princeton University Press. In May, Grinberg participated in the Academy for Jewish Research Early Career Faculty Workshop at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.



Jill Hicks-Keeton

Jill Hicks-Keeton had a very productive year. In October, her book *Arguing with Aseneth* was published with Oxford University Press. In June, the volume *The Museum of the Bible: A Critical Introduction*, edited with Cavan Concannon, was published by Lexington

Books. Hicks-Keeton was selected by the editors of the Association of Jewish Studies' *AJS Perspectives*



Arguing with Aseneth

*Gentile Access to Israel's Living God
in Jewish Antiquity*

JILL HICKS-KEETON



THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION

series as one of 10 “rising voices in Jewish Studies” to contribute to a special issue in celebration of and reflection on 50 years of the AJS. Her piece was titled “Can Paul Come to the AJS?” and was released at the AJS annual meeting in December.

She received an Arts & Humanities Faculty

Fellowship Award, which she will use during fall 2019 to work on her book project “Who Owns the Bible?” under contract with Cambridge University Press.

Note: Grinberg, along with Shepkaru and Hicks-Keeton, have all won the prestigious Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship Award.



Misha Klein

Misha Klein collaborated with Michel Gherman on a project on changing conceptions of race, the rise of the right wing and Jewish identity in Brazil. This project led to several presentations, including “Race, Jews and the

Rupturing of Community in Brazil: ‘the Pogrom of Laranjeiras’ and What Happened ‘That Night’ in Rio,” delivered to the Jewish Federation of New Mexico; “*Judeu Sionista Não Apoia Fascista!*” (Zionist Jews Don’t Support Fascists!): Protest and the End of Community Consensus,” presented as part of the panel “Left and Right in Jewish Politics” at the Center for Latin American Studies’ 68th Annual Conference on Jews and the Americas; “*Judeu Sionista Não Apoia Fascista!*” at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. At the Fifth Regional Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, Klein presented the “After Durban: Jews and Shifting Conceptions of Race in Post-Freyrean Brazil,” and sat on the panel “Transnational Discourses and Tensions: Race, Identity, and Belonging in Jewish Latin America.” She joined the editorial board of the new journal, *Latin American Jewish Studies*, and has the upcoming article, “Entre ‘Conversos’ e ‘Desconversos’: O Caso da Influência da

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

Nova Direita Brasileira sobre a Comunidade Judaica do Rio de Janeiro” [Between ‘Converts’ and ‘Unconverts’: The Influence of the New Brazilian Right on the Jewish Community in Rio de Janeiro] in *Revista Estudos Sociais del Estado*.



Jacob Lackner

Jacob Lackner joined our associated faculty in 2018, covering courses for Shepkaru during his sabbatical. In fall 2019 Lackner is set to teach the course “Conversion in Medieval Europe.” Over the last year, he presented a

paper titled “Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral?: Medieval Jewish and Christian Dietary Laws and the Curious Case of the Barnacle Goose” at the 2018 meeting of the Texas Medieval Association. He also delivered a public lecture for Norman’s Medieval Fair Free Lecture Series titled “Cooperation between Muslims and Christians during the Era of the Crusades.”



Stephen H. Norwood

Stephen H. Norwood published “The Nazi Warships that Americans Welcomed, and the Exhibit Ignores” and “The Exhibit’s Neglect of U.S. Universities’ Collaboration with the Third Reich” in *Distorting America’s Response to the Holocaust: An Analysis of the*

“Americans and the Holocaust” Exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC:

David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, 2018).



Andrew Porwancher

Andrew Porwancher served as a Senior Research Fellow for the Clements Center at the University of Texas at Austin in spring 2019. Progress continues on his book *The Jewish Life of Alexander Hamilton*, under contract with Harvard

University Press, while he also carried on work with a new book project on Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews, now under contract with Princeton University Press.

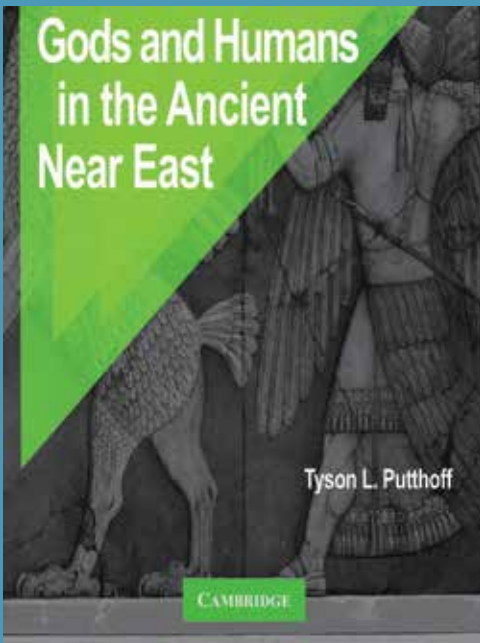
Porwancher spoke on Jewish topics at several law schools: University of Virginia, Vanderbilt and St. Thomas. He delivered public lectures in Oklahoma, Florida, Oregon, Illinois, Tennessee and New York. He also delivered the keynote address at the OKC Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple B’nai Israel in 2018.



Tyson Putthoff

Tyson Putthoff joined our associated faculty in 2018, reviving the popular course “Ancient Near East Civilizations” previously taught by emeritus professor Daniel Snell, as well as drawing students to the course “World Religions and Ecology.” Putthoff brought a

second book project to fruition with Cambridge, *Gods and Human in the Ancient Near East* (see opposite).



Janet Ward

Janet Ward presented a paper in September at the XIth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies titled “The Spatial Planning of the Holocaust in Lublin, Poland.” She was also awarded with a L.R. Brammer, Jr. Presidential Professorship in History during spring 2019. Ward’s current book project, “Sites of Holocaust Memory,” is under contract with Bloomsbury Academic.



Tryce Hyman

Tryce Hyman celebrated his first year as the center’s administrative assistant, as well as the publication of his first book chapter, “Intersections of Jewish Studies and Israel Studies: Israeli Haredim,” in the volume *Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in the Twenty-First Century* (see page 6).



Daniel Simon

In 2018 **Daniel Simon** reached the milestone of 10 years as editor-in-chief of *World Literature Today*, the third-longest tenure in the magazine’s history. His latest book project, *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867–2017*, which

he edited, received a 2018 Nebraska Book Award, and three of his 2018 poems were nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He has also been nominated for the 2019 Ottaway Award for the Promotion of International Literature. Partnering with OU’s Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences and Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts, he spearheaded the creation of a new minor in editing and publishing. Simon initiated the “11 Books for Tolerance & Understanding” booklist (see page 23).



Shir Alon

The Schusterman Center says farewell and sends best wishes to associate faculty member **Shir Alon**, who has taken a position at the University of Minnesota where she will serve as an assistant professor of Arabic Literature.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations also to all of Schusterman Center majors/minors who secured scholarships:

Percy Amichai Hill (Hebrew/Judaic and Israel Studies minors) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for summer 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jessica Isaac (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for Summer 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as an Esther Rose Schnier Scholarship.

Joni Keaton (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for 2019 at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's Intensive Summer Program.

Rachel Lopo (Ph.D. candidate with the College of Education) won the Rosalyn Price Memorial Scholarship for her continuing research on Jewish educators.

Josh Romer (Judaic Studies major) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for summer 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Avery Simon (Judaic and Israel Studies minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for Summer 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Graham Aryeh Wall (Judaic Studies major) won an Esther Rose Shnier Scholarship.

Matthew Wennemann (Judaic and Israel Studies minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship for summer 2019 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Zarrow Family

Scholarship.

Congratulations to our wonderful Class of 2019 graduating seniors:

Kanaan Goldstein

(Judaic and Israel Studies minor)

was also the winner of the 2019 Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies.

After graduation, Kanaan went off to a summer BCI

Jewish leadership

course at American Jewish University, after which she intends to spend some time in Jewish community work before attending rabbinic school with the goal of continuing her career as a U.S. Navy chaplain.

Maeghan Jakubovitz (Hebrew minor) who is carrying on at OU in pursuit of a master of arts degree in social work.

Brooke Wambold (Judaic and Israel Studies minor)

Zelma Wind (Judaic and Israel Studies minor)



Kanaan Goldstein

JUST A BIT MORE NEWS



Statue of Maimonides in Cordoba, Spain

During Spring Break 2019, **Alan Levenson** served as host and guide for Sightseeing Sooners, a popular program run by the OU Alumni Association. Guests saw the birthplace of many of the great medieval Bible commentators, philosophers and mystics well-represented in Jewish tradition and modern scholarship. Spain had the largest, oldest and most integrated Jewish population of any medieval nation. Southern Spain, or Andalucia (Al-Andalus), derived its special nature from the mix – often convivial – of Christian, Islamic and Jewish cultures. The group saw Cordova, Seville, Rondo, Granada and Toledo; El Transito Synagogue in Toledo; and the Alhambra, the last castle conquered by the Christians before the expulsion of 1492.



*Top: OU alumni pictured outside the Royal Palace, Madrid
Bottom: Group picture in front of the Alhambra, Granada*

ACROSS THE DECADES: 25 YEARS OF ALUMNI

Since 1995, Judaic and Israel Studies at OU has reached thousands of students and helped produce dozens of young scholars with knowledge in the field.

We invite you to read here about these nine who offered to share about their experiences.



Amy Shevitz, Ph.D.
Class of 2002

Shevitz was among the first graduate students present when Judaic Studies made the formal transition into a program in 1995, and founding Director Noam Stillman sat on her dissertation defense committee. That dissertation served as the basis of her monograph, *Jewish Communities on the Ohio River: A History*. Since her time at OU, Shevitz has had a long career in academia, and currently serves on the faculty of Loyola University Chicago's Department of Theology.



Orit Rabkin, Ph.D.
Class of 2004 and 2011

I spent 12 years at OU in the English department. Shortly after I arrived, Noam Stillman welcomed me into the Judaic Studies family along with Alan Levenson and Shmuel Shepkaru. At first, it was simply a relief to walk through a hallway with Hebrew on the walls, where people spoke Hebrew and understood what it meant to be Jewish (not to mention what it means to be Jewish in Oklahoma). The content on the walls of the department always spoke to me, describing a place where rigorous academic work was going on dedicated to Jewishness. Now, back in Israel, I tell everyone who will listen about my conversations with Alan, for example, about *Ahad Ha'am* or my conversation with Ori Kirtz about Yiddish Literature and language. The response is always one of surprise that I found this in Oklahoma!

One of the most important moment for me, was when Ori Kirtz joined my Ph.D. committee. She acted as the official outside member. I will forever remember how tough it was to hide my smile as she

wholeheartedly defended my work during my defense, along with my committee head, Henry McDonald. She lectured the room about (among others) the inherent Jewishness of poet Emma Lazarus or the importance of Yiddish to interpreting the works of Abraham Cahan.

Over the years, I participated in “Just Lunch,” and looked forward to such meetings. Remember Gittinger Hall? The meetings used take place there.

Mazal, Tov, Judaic Studies at OU! Wishing you many more years of important, blessed, work.

Currently, I teach at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in the south of Israel and at the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) in Haifa. At Ben Gurion I teach first-year composition to incoming freshmen and literature. At the Technion I teach graduate English and the writing course for the medical school’s M.D./Ph.D. program.

My husband continues to play and teach piano. Our girls, both of them Okies, are now 14 and 10.



Anne Nicolson
Class of 2005

When I began courses with the Judaic Studies program, I was closer to retirement age than most and had no particular career goals. I also knew that I would be moving from Norman

before I could complete my degree, so I chose the Master of Liberal Studies, a program designed for non-resident students. This is the only degree I have ever taken where I accumulated more credits than were required. I was studying for the joy of learning. For the two years that I was still in Norman, I took courses on campus that were not degree requirements at all. I developed a love for history and a love for Judaism. The faculty at the time I was a student was small, but the quality was outstanding. My adviser, Norman Stillman, demanded rigorous work. I also learned a great deal working as a graduate assistant to Shmuel

Shepkaru. I did my first archival research for Michael Alexander. The product of my study was a thesis titled “The Strategies of the Jews of Oklahoma for Preserving Distinctive Ethno-religious Identity.”

Since I have been in California, I have been active with the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, serving twice as regional president and one term as an international vice president. I participate in two book groups for Jewish women and continue to study and learn.



Aaron Friedman, Ph.D.
Class of 2007

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies played a profound role in my experience while a student at the University of Oklahoma, as well as my personal and

career trajectory since graduation. In the fall of 2004, I enrolled as a freshman at OU with Judaic and Israel studies the furthest thing from my interests or list of priorities. That quickly changed, however, when I learned that I was required to take a foreign language as part of my psychology degree program. Growing up attending Jewish day school, and later Hebrew School, Hebrew was the natural choice. I remembered the alphabet and would have somewhat of a head start, I figured. The decision to enroll in that first Hebrew course was the catalyst to a number of, quite frankly, life-changing relationships and experiences I gained over the next several years while a student at OU.

The Jewish and non-Jewish friends that I made in that initial Hebrew course became my core group of friends throughout my time at OU. We got involved with the campus Hillel, and restarted a long-defunct Jewish fraternity on campus, Alpha Epsilon Pi. We celebrated Shabbats and numerous holidays together, oftentimes alongside the Jewish faculty of the Judaic Studies program. Lea Reches and Ori Kritiz,

the Hebrew professors whose courses my friends and I continued to enroll in semester after semester, became our somewhat adoptive parents while away from home. My engagement and relationships with the program's faculty I came to know inspired me to enroll in more course offerings, such as Jewish History with Professor Stillman, The Hebrew Bible as Literature with Professor Kritz, and The Rebirth of Israel with Professor Schapkow.

Throughout my time at OU, I also visited Israel a number of times, and became more passionate about Israel advocacy, becoming involved in numerous pro-Israel initiatives on campus. My experiences within and outside of the classroom enriched one another, as there was so much opportunity to get involved outside of the classroom (such as representing OU on the Schusterman-sponsored "Leading Up North" volunteer trip to Israel), while learning from such passionate and knowledgeable professors inside the classroom. As graduation approached, and with my Hebrew minor in hand, I began applying for graduate school. However, via the leadership of both the Judaic Studies program and the University's Hillel, I became aware of an open role at the Israeli Consulate in Houston - the Consulate's Press Officer, or spokesperson. While I didn't meet some of the requirements listed, I figured my formal education, time spent in Israel, and pro-Israel involvement may have prepared me some for the role. So, I applied, got the job, and worked for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over three years following my graduation from OU in December 2007.

I credit The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies with providing me with the learning opportunities, friendships, mentorship, and a scholarship that enabled me to get so involved, learn so much and land a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity immediately following graduation. The Consulate was a tremendous experience, and while I eventually left the Consulate (becoming what we former consulate employees refer to as an "ex-con"), my learnings and relationships that the center and department made possible remain with me today. Since leaving the

Consulate, I returned to graduate school to earn my Ph.D. in psychology in 2015, and am currently working as an industrial and organizational psychologist in Dallas.

People often ask me why I chose OU. I never really had a good answer, but in retrospect, am so glad that I did. The students and faculty that I met, the knowledge and perspective I gained, and the opportunity that was provided to me through the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies changed my life. To know that such a talented group of people continue to "profess" Judaic and Israel Studies, in the middle of Oklahoma of all places, for 25 years, is a testament to the meaning and opportunity that this program and center is bringing to all who have the opportunity to engage with and benefit from its faculty, students, research and courses.

Boomer Sooner and L'hitraot



David Goldsmith
Class of 2012

In 2011, the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma awarded me the Bezalel scholarship to study abroad at Tel Aviv University. I traded what I knew—my friends and the comfort of home for the unknown. Traveling by myself, I remember flying El-Al with a group of undergrads I had met only hours before in Terminal 4 at JFK. Together, we would embark on a journey of growth, Judaism and community. From our daily Ulpan sessions, to our rotating weekly Shabbat potlucks, to our beach Havdallahs, and to our five-shekel falafel meals, we built a life in our little land of milk and honey. From our diverse backgrounds, our identities emerged as a pluralistic fusion of culture, history and tradition. And with it, I deeply connected with my Jewish-Israeli roots. For the many stories heard, experiences shared, and memories made, I

will forever be grateful to the Bezael Foundation and the Schusterman Center. The community we built continues on with our memories of this special place in time and space.

I currently live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and I continue to community-build as an adviser for BBYO, an advocate for Tulsa Tomorrow and as a host for Shabbat potlucks.



Courtney Hyman
Class of 2012

When I first came to OU, I was planning to take a few extra economics classes before pursuing my Ph.D. in finance. In signing up for these courses,

I discovered that I could get a bachelor's degree in economics if I took a few more hours before starting my Ph.D. This led to me signing up for a Hebrew class to help me better connect with my Jewish faith. Over the course of that year, I made a number of good friends and took a Judaic history course in addition to my Hebrew classes.

The next fall, I started my Ph.D. program. I also started getting very sick and fatigued, to the point where I was having a hard time staying awake in class and keeping up with my school work. Throughout this time, I was taking Hebrew with Ori Kritz, who expressed concern and sympathy for my plight.

After a lot of doctor's visits, several trips to the ER and a lot of tests, I was diagnosed with severe Crohn's disease. While the diagnosis was scary and I knew a lot of things in my life would have to change, it was also a relief to have a diagnosis and a place to start getting better from.

The next day in Hebrew, I told Ori what we found out and she took me under her wing, as she has family with the same condition. She provided me with a wealth of information and support and helped to keep my spirits up when the meds I had to take became overwhelming.

Over the course of the next year, it became apparent that I could not both continue my Ph.D. and have any chance of healing, as we also learned that I had a severe allergy to many of the fillers that were in the meds, which led to having bad reactions and the meds doing more harm than good. I ultimately had to drop out of my program, but the Judaic Studies faculty and staff continued to be a source of support for me.

I was able to begin working for the local Hillel, which allowed me to stay in contact with the Jewish community and to have the flexibility to get the care I needed for my Crohn's. I was able to continue working there until my health got to a point where I needed to be able to work from home.

Ori and other members of the Judaic Studies program have continued to be a source of support even after I was no longer working for Hillel and have consistently shown me love and compassion, as well as encouraging me to take care of myself and live a happy life.

I will forever be grateful that I decided to take that Hebrew course. Through the relationships I have made, I have been able to find a new normal that allows me to live as full of a life as my health will allow.



Charles Mays
Class of 2015

I am extremely grateful to the Judaic and Israel Studies program at OU for helping me to grow both academically and professionally with the aim of being a future Jewish leader.

I am particularly grateful to professors Stillman, Levenson and Kritz for their engaging classes, patience and dedication to their student's success. I am also thankful to the department for providing me with the opportunity to study abroad in Israel twice. Those experiences abroad further propelled my love of Judaism, Jewish History, and of Israel and the Hebrew Language. I will never forget my first time driving

from the Tel Aviv airport and seeing the metropolis of Jerusalem rise up before as I entered the city. To be in a place of such history and culture was simply remarkable. To touch the cold smooth stone of the Kotel and connect spiritually with thousands before me, was an indescribable and sacred moment. To climb Masada and explore the ancient ruins of Israel's past was incredible. The experiences, skills and knowledge imparted to me from the Judaic Studies department at OU continues to shape my life as I currently navigate my way through graduate school and will continue to do so as I work to attend Hebrew Union College's Rabbinical school program in fall of 2020.



Andrea Pemberton
Class of 2015

Reflecting on my undergraduate experience at the University of Oklahoma, few academic experiences prepared me for my future adventures as well as classes in the Judaic Studies

and Hebrew program. When I first started learning the Hebrew language in 2012 in Professor Ori Kritz's class, I never expected that it would eventually lead me to conduct research in Jerusalem as a Fulbright Scholar.

Upon receiving the Bezalel Foundation Study in Israel Fellowship Scholarship, I prepared for my semester abroad by taking courses such as History of Ancient Israel, Rebirth of Israel and History of Heaven and Hell in Judaism and Christianity. All of these classes gave me historical and cultural perspective for my semester abroad in Israel. My experience living in Jerusalem and studying at the Hebrew University gave me the opportunity to practice my Hebrew skills, explore a truly historic and international city and make lasting friendships. This study abroad experience also introduced me to educational issues unique to Israel,

and this became the subject of my undergraduate capstone research and Fulbright scholarship.

With continuous support of OU faculty, especially Professor Misha Klein, I was awarded a Fulbright grant to Israel in 2016 to conduct research on the graduates of an integrated, bilingual Jewish-Arab school called Hand in Hand. My time working with the students and faculty and interviewing graduates of the school profoundly changed my perspective, equipped me with new skills and allowed me to return to Tulsa, Oklahoma, with new insights as I grow my professional career. I am now dedicated to returning to Israel each year to continue my engagement with the Hand in Hand school, reconnect with friends and colleagues and help increase cultural understanding between those living in America and Israel. I am appreciative of the Judaic Studies and Hebrew programs at OU for providing the educational and experiential opportunities that allowed me to embark on such a special personal, academic and professional journey.



Heath Rosenberger
Class of 2016

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies affected me more than any other department

on campus during my time at OU, and truthfully, it was all by chance! When I came to OU the summer before my freshman year to enroll, I knew I needed a foreign language. I had done several years of Spanish in high school and was not looking forward to more in college. So as I was heading to my enrollment appointment, I saw a flier in the hallway for Hebrew. I immediately thought that sounded interesting and fun, and more importantly, not Spanish. So I enrolled.

That fall, Dr. Kritz kindled a flame for Hebrew and Israel studies that I never knew I had! Hebrew instantly became my favorite class. I could tell there

was something unique about Dr. Kritz and the entire Judaic and Israel Studies faculty because they came to me with all sorts of opportunities for courses, travel, scholarships and more. This department had a genuine interest in me and my personal development. I did not receive this warmth from any other department on campus.

I knew quickly I wanted to minor in Hebrew (if I could have majored in it, I would have in a heartbeat). The department and its sponsors made it possible for me to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for a summer. I still look back and see that my time studying in Israel was one of the most impactful of my life. And I never would have been able to do it without the financial help this department gave me. But even financial help was not all! The faculty took an active role in making sure my experience there would be fruitful, by suggesting places to visit, foods to eat, and even checking on me while I was there amidst rocket fire!

But again, the faculty did not stop there. They actively sought out available scholarships for me to finish my time at OU. They worked hard to find scholarships for me that I did not know existed! The center genuinely cared for me and wanted me to succeed in my educational experience, and beyond college. I packed my free electives with courses offered by the Judaic and Israel Studies faculty. These were the courses I was most excited for each semester!

The genuine interest this center showed in me inspired me to do some research into my own family history. Even though my last name is Rosenberger, I had no idea it was a Jewish last name until I became a part of this program. I grew up Christian. I started looking through my family tree and eventually found pictures of a few of my ancestors that had menorahs on their headstone! I was so excited to have found my own personal connection to the Jewish faith. Because of this program, I was able to experience my first Shabbat services, my first Passover Seder and so many other rich experiences that I probably never

would have been able to find without the exposure this program gave me.

Even today, this program is still on my mind. After college, I moved to a smaller town in South Carolina. One of the first things I did was search for the nearest Jewish congregation so that I could get to know the wonderful folks there. And as soon as I finished this, I searched for the nearest place to find Israeli hummus!

The friendships, mentors and investments that this department gave me will forever impact me. Though I am still a Christian, I have such a deep appreciation for the Jewish faith, Jewish people and Israel that I will always hold on to.

This department made my experience at OU better than I could have ever imagined.
Thank you Schusterman Center!

TELL US YOUR ALUMNI STORIES!

Email:
JUDAICSTUDIES@OU.EDU

Facebook & Twitter:
@OUJudaicStudies

EVENTS

2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS
26 EVENTS | 1,900+ ATTENDEES

During the course of the last year, the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was thrilled to present or cosponsor more than two dozen events, engaging students and the community at large.

2019-2020 EVENTS

JuSt Lunches

1st Wednesday of the Month @ Noon



Oklahoma Memorial Union (OMU)

Bring your lunch. We provide coffee, tea and snacks.

Sept. 4 | “Martyrdom: A Jewish Invention?” *with Shmuel Shepkaru*

Oct. 2 | “The Visual Presentation of the Dreyfus Affair” *with Simona Di Nepi*

Nov. 6 | “Tel Aviv Bauhaus and the White City Myths” *with Janet Ward*

Dec. 4 | “Human Nature in the Hebrew Bible” *with Tyson Putthoff*

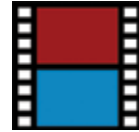
Feb. 5 | “Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel’s Gate” *with Rhona Seidelman*

March 4 | “It’s All Syriac To Me: The Most Important Language You’ve Never Heard Of” *with Scott Johnson*

JuSt Film Festival

7 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 12-26

Dale Hale Tower Community Room



Hosted by Carsten Schapkow in conjunction with his course *The Holocaust*.

Nov. 12 | *A Film Unfinished*

Nov. 19 | *Conspiracy*

Nov. 26 | *1945*

Guest Lectures

From Assimilation to Expulsion: Struggles Faced by German Jewish Mathematicians, 1848-1938 *with David*

Rowe (Johannes Gutenberg University)

5 p.m. Sept. 10

Bizzell Library Community Room LL118

“Faith and Civic Virtue in Public Life” Lecture Series *with Lewis Gordon (University of Connecticut)*

Sept. 20, Afternoon (time/location TBD)

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Collection of Judaica *with Simona Di*

Nepi (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

5 p.m. Oct. 2

OMU Scholars Room



Yehia Yemini, Hanukkah lamp, Israel, Jerusalem, 1920s. Silver. Charles and Lynn Schusterman Collection.

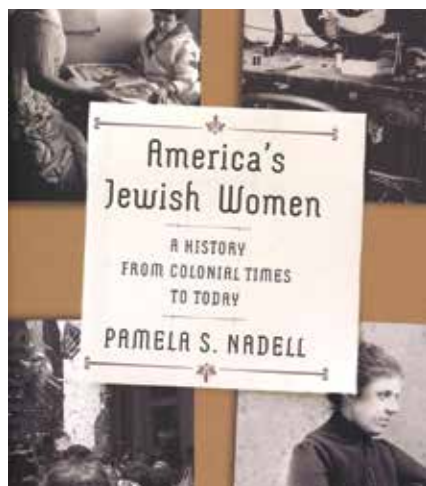
SAVE THE DATE!

20th Annual Yedida K. Stillman Memorial Lecture

with Pamela Nadell (American University)

7 p.m. March 3

OMU Scholars Room



Symposium

Celebrating 25 Years of Judaic and Israel Studies at OU

Noon-6 p.m. April 1

J.J. Rhyne Community Room, Zarrow Hall

Lecture/Concert Series

Jeanne Golan Concert

7 p.m. Jan. 30

Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center

James Simon Concert

7 p.m. Feb. 9

Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center

Israel Independence Day Concert

7 p.m. April 30

Pitman Recital Hall, Catlett Music Center

JUST LUNCH 2019-2020

Sept. 4 | Oct. 2 | Nov. 6 | Dec. 4 | Feb 5 | March 4

JUST FILM FESTIVAL 2019

Nov. 12 | Nov. 19 | Nov. 26

OTHER LECTURES/EVENTS

Sept. 10 "From Assimilation to Expulsion: Struggles Faced by German Jewish Mathematicians: 1848-1938" with David Rowe

Sept. 20 The "Faith and Civic Virtue in Public Life" Lecture Series with Lewis Gordon

Oct. 2 "The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Collection of Judaica" with Simona Di Nepi

Jan. 30 Jeanne Golan Concert

Feb. 9 James Simon Concert

March 3 "America's Jewish Women," the 20th Annual YKS Memorial Lecture with Pamela Nadell

April 1 Celebrating 25 Years of Judaic and Israel Studies at OU

April 30 Israel Independence Day Concert

MISS AN EVENT? CATCH UP ON



**Many of our JuSt Lunches,
Guest Lectures and
events from our
Lecture and Concert Series
can be found online.**

Visit:

ou.edu/cas/judaicstudies/social-media

A NIGHT OF TESTIMONY

Miriam Friedman Morris is on a mission to recover and preserve the legacy of her father, the late artist and Holocaust survivor David Friedman (1893-1980). Before a large crowd at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Friedman Morris discussed the life and work of her father, as well as her journey to recover pieces of his lost art.

Her father's work was a featured exhibit at the museum, *Testimony: The Life and Work of David Friedman*, from Jan. 25 through May 26. At a special event on April 18, Friedman



Miriam Friedman Morris (center) pictured with OU faculty members Janet Ward and Lorne Richstone.

Morris delivered her lecture, preceeded by an ensemble musical program featuring five excerpts by notable Jewish composers whose careers were destroyed by the Holocaust: James Simon, James Rothstein, Robert Dauer, Erwin Schulhoff and Friedrich Scharz.

This performance, organized and led by

Lorne Richstone on the piano, included Jonathan Ruck (cello), Joel Burcham (tenor), Gregory Lee (violin), Jonathan Nichol (saxophone) and Leslie Flanagan (baritone).



Cattle Train to Auschwitz, 1963.



Prisoners Carrying Bricks, 1964.

DAVID FRIEDMAN (1893-1980)



Austrian-born David Friedman(n) was a painter and graphic artist in Berlin, renowned for his portraits drawn from life. His quick-sketching talents led to an additional career as a leading

press artist of the 1920s. After Hitler came to power, his successful prewar career ended. As each of his options narrowed, Friedman continued to produce art illustrating the events and personal experiences of his time. He depicted human fate as a refugee

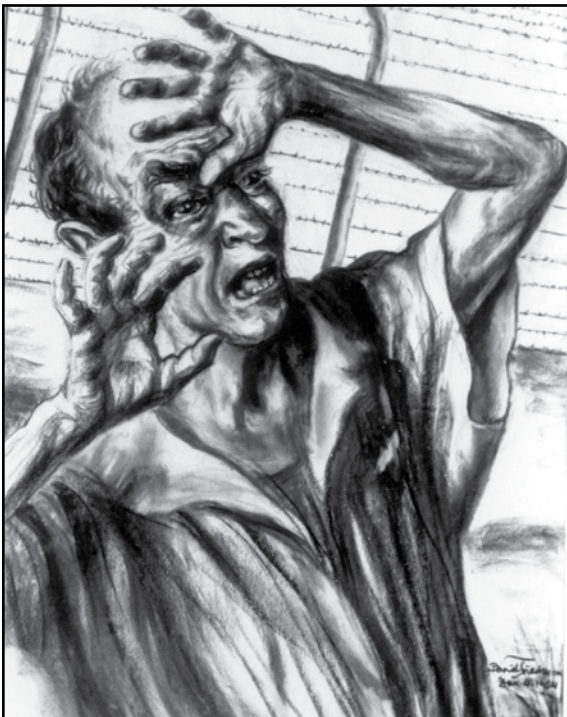
in Prague, as a prisoner in the Lodz Ghetto, in the Auschwitz subcamp Gleiwitz I and as a survivor. His wife and 5-year-old daughter perished. His artwork was Nazi-looted and is still lost. Friedman remarried and built a new life, first in Czechia, then Israel and, finally, in the United States. Torn from his memories, he created the powerful series, "Because They Were Jews!" He supplemented his drawings and paintings with descriptions of the scenes depicted in his works to create a singularly detailed record of the Holocaust.

CONTACT MIRIAM FRIEDMAN MORRIS

miriamfmorris@gmail.com

<http://z.umn.edu/davidfriedmann>

 [@DavidFriedmann1893](#)



The Artist is Beaten, 1964.



Night Raid in the Lodz Ghetto, 1947.

TOLERANCE PROMOTION



Hundreds gather for vigil at OU Hillel for the shooting victims of Squirrel Hill.



Andrew Porwancher discusses American Jewish prospects at his November JuSt Lunch.

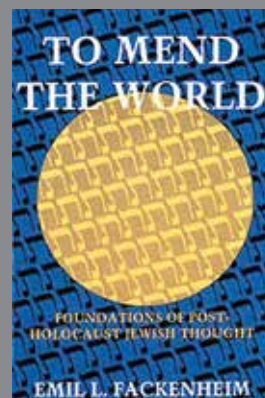
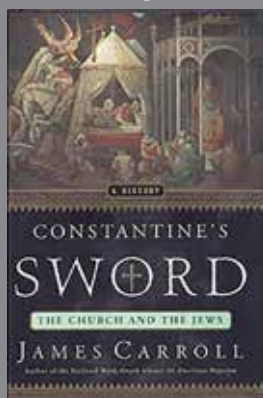
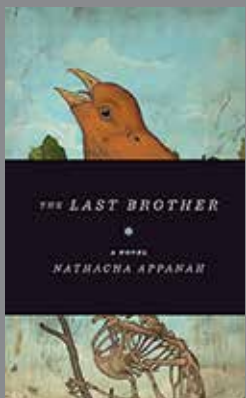
The Schusterman Center has dedicated itself to being an active part of the response to the growing wave of antisemitism in the United States and globally. In the wake of the tragedy at Squirrel Hill, the Schusterman Center and its faculty were heavily involved in organizing a vigil for the victims at OU Hillel, with Alan Levenson and Misha Klein delivering speeches at the event. Klein also delivered the keynote speech at OU's "Teach OUt on Race," and other Schusterman Center faculty engaged in tolerance promotion both campus-wide and beyond to national platforms (see below). As director of the OU Humanities Fourm, Janet Ward helped raise awareness through the public symposium, "Fascism, America and Human Rights."

We worked with the Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City, the University of Oklahoma's Headington College and the Anti-Defamation League to organize the third annual *Holocaust Educators' Conference*

11 Books for Tolerance and Understanding

[As seen in *World Literature Today* (11/16/2018)]

To honor the 11 victims of the Squirrel Hill massacre, Daniel Simon collaborated with Schusterman Center faculty and others to assemble a list of 11 books to facilitate reflection, to promote tolerance and to foster understanding.





Cheryl Drazin (ADL), Alan Levenson, Robarta Clark (OKCJFED) and Sherasa Thomas (ADL) at the Holocaust Educators Conference



Defaced statue, covered, prior to its restoration. Beyond, hundreds begin to gather for "Strike Back with Love" rally.

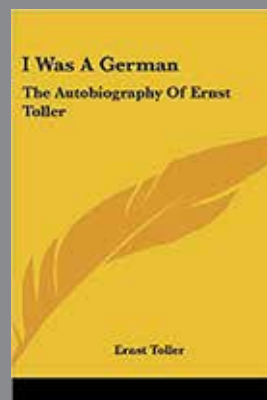
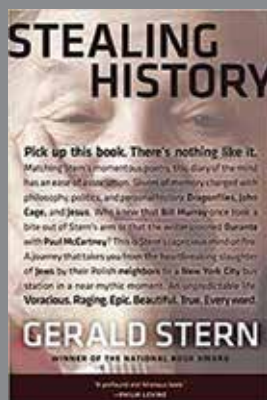
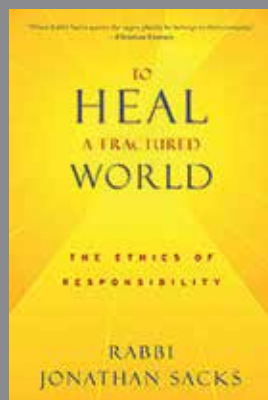
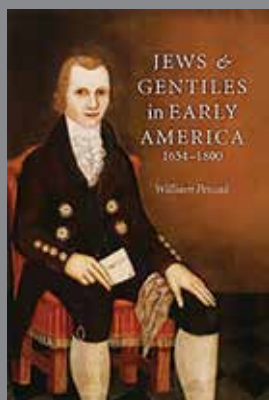


OU Hillel Executive Director Kasi Shelton and Student Life coordinator Jack Fuchsman speak at "Strike Back with Love" rally.

in June. This conference hosted over 60 educators from both public schools and private institutions from across Oklahoma.

The wave of antisemitism came very close to home this year, with a spree of graffiti tagging both in Oklahoma City and Norman itself, mere blocks away from our university, this April. Volunteers to clean the graffiti came forward immediately, and Norman Mayor Breea Clark put together the "Strike Back with Love" rally at Lions Park that very day. The rally was attended by Schusterman Center faculty, leadership from the city and university, as well as hundreds of other Norman residents.

See more: worldliteraturetoday.org/blog/lit-lists/11-books-for-tolerance



OUR STORY

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma began as the *Schusterman/ Josey Judaic Studies Program* with the establishment of the Schusterman/Josey Chair of Judaic History and the coming of Noam and Yedida Stillman to OU in 1995. From that modest beginning, Shmuel Shepkaru joined the program in 1997, and a Judaic Studies minor was established shortly thereafter. Ori Kritz arrived in 2003, enabling the establishment of a Hebrew minor in 2005. Carsten Schapkow joined the faculty in 2005 as well.

In 2007, the program expanded to become the *Schusterman Program in Judaic and Israel Studies*, including the establishment of a Judaic Studies Bachelor of Arts in 2008 and the creation of the endowed positions of Schusterman/Josey Professor of Jewish Intellectual & Religious History, initially

held by Alan Levenson, and the Schusterman Chair of Modern Israel Studies. In 2014, the program expanded again, becoming a center and gaining its

present title. Rhona Seidelman filled the Schusterman Chair in Modern Israel Studies in 2015.

2015 also saw the retirement of founding director Noam Stillman and the addition of Ronnie Grinberg in American Jewish History that same year.



Early program logo, circa 2007. Note the letters aleph/tav, a play on "A to Z," reflecting our aspirations from our earliest days.



Charles and Lynn Schusterman, circa 1997.



Noam Stillman delivers a JuSt Lunch, circa 1997.

CORE FACULTY



Alan Levenson
Professor | Schusterman/
Josey Chair in Judaic
Studies



Shmuel Shepkaru
Associate Professor |
Schusterman Professor of
Jewish Intellectual and
Religious History



Ori Kritz
Professor of Hebrew and
Jewish Literature | Head of
the Hebrew Program



Carsten Schapkow
Associate Professor | L.R.
Brammer Jr. Presidential
Professor in History



Ronnie Grinberg
Assistant Professor |
American Jewish History &
Gender Studies



Rhona Seidelman
Assistant Professor |
Schusterman Chair of
Modern Israel Studies



Yael Lavender-Smith
Hebrew Instructor

ASSOCIATE FACULTY

Benjamin Alpers
Associate Professor
Honors College

David Chappell
Rothbaum Professor of Modern
American History

Rangar Cline
Assistant Professor of
Religious Studies

Luis Cortest
Professor of Spanish

Jill Hicks-Keeton
Assistant Professor of
Religious Studies

Misha Klein
Associate Professor of
Anthropology

Jacob Lackner
Visiting Lecturer in History

Scott Johnson
Associate Professor of Classics
and Letters

Nina Livesey
Associate Professor of
American and Cultural Literacy

Stephen Norwood
Professor of History

Andrew Porwancher
Wick Cary Associate Professor

Tyson Putthoff
Lecturer | Hebrew Bible

Karin Schutjer
Professor of German Studies

Daniel Simon
Director/Editor-in-Chief of
World Literature Today

Janet Ward
Professor of History
L.R. Brammer Jr. Presidential
Professor in History
Faculty Director of the
Humanities Forum at OU

Robb Young
Lecturer | Religious Studies

University of Oklahoma students enjoy the benefit of access to the largest home for Judaic and Israel Studies in the region, with a catalog of over 60 courses and more always on the way. This is in addition to the variety of Study Abroad courses our students have available at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, including intensive language programs and hands-on archaeological digs. Students can pursue a variety of different programs through the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies.

These options include a **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Judaic Studies** and a **minor in Judaic & Israel Studies** as well as a **minor in Hebrew**. Students may also pursue a **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History while choosing Judaic/Israel History as a thematic field**. Students seeking graduate-level work in Judaic and Israel Studies may

do so through the **Department of History's M.A. and Ph.D. programs**. The Schusterman Center offers very competitive fellowships to select students pursuing the History M.A. with a Judaic/Israel History major field.

CENTER FACTS:

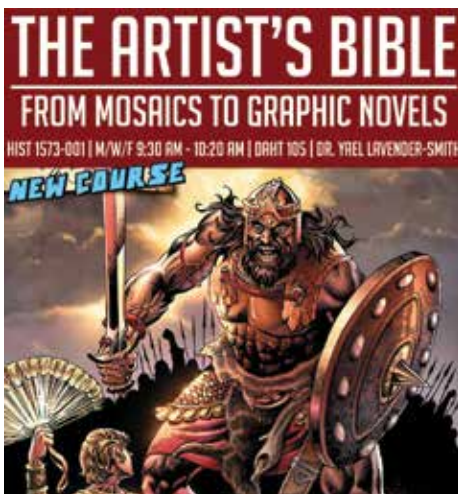
-7 CORE FACULTY

-16 ASSOCIATE FACULTY

-9,000+ ENROLLMENTS SINCE 2007

-\$90,000+ IN AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO STUDENTS

NEW COURSES!



Two new courses were approved this year. One – *The Artist's Bible* – will be offered in fall 2019. The other, a Judaic and Israel Studies survey course titled *Jews: From Abraham to Zionism*, will serve as an introductory course to the topic and field for undergraduate students. The course will feature a semester-long series of guest classroom lectures by Schusterman Center faculty aimed at introducing students to various areas of expertise on hand at the University of Oklahoma. *Jews from A to Z* will familiarize students with sources and scholarship in the field.

2019-2020 COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2019

ANTH 4073 Anthropology of Jews
CL C 3133 Plato & the Platonic Tradition
HEBR 1115 Beginning Hebrew
HEBR 2113 Intermediate Hebrew
HEBR 3113 Advanced Hebrew
HEBR 3513 Biblical Hebrew
HIST 1573 The Artist's Bible
HIST 2013 Ancient Near East Civilizations
HIST 2103 Genocides in Modern History
HIST 2123 The Holocaust
HIST 2573 The History Sleuth
HIST 3060 Conversion in Medieval Europe
HIST 3313 Israeli Culture Through Film
HIST 3403 Modern Israel
HIST 3423 War, Prosperity and Depression
HIST 3973 Judaism-A Religious History
HIST 3993 The Evolution of Martyrdom
HIST 4973 Nations and Nation States in Europe (1789-1923)
HIST 4973 The Global 60s
HON 3993 History, Memory, Conflict: World War II Since 1945
LSTD 4163 World Religion and Ecology
LSTD 4173 Women in the Bible and Quran
LSTD 4183 Crafting the Cinematic Jesus
RELS 3193 Biblical Literature
RELS 3213 Religion and Violence
RELS 4323 Pilgrimage

SPRING 2020

CL C 3803 World of Late Antiquity
HEBR 1225 Beginning Hebrew (cont.)
HEBR 2213 Intermediate Hebrew II
HEBR 3223 Advanced Hebrew II
HIST 3293 Antisemitism
HIST 3563 Jerusalem
HIST 3623 Conformity & Dissent in the 1950s & 60s
HIST 3653 American Jewish History
HIST 3733 History of Heaven and Hell
HIST 3773 Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages
HIST 4003 Jews and Other Germans
MLLL 3063 Jewish Literature
RELS 1113 Intro to Religious Studies
RELS 1213 Judaism and Christianity
RELS 3623 Apostle Paul: Life & Thoughts
RELS 3833 Biblical Archeology

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Competitive awards and scholarships are available to OU students pursuing Judaic and Israel Studies

Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship

Scholarships of \$10,000 each are offered for semester-long study abroad programs in Israel; in addition, we have \$5,000 scholarships for those wishing to study in Israel during the summer. The scholarships are open to full-time University of Oklahoma undergraduate and graduate students during the period for which application is made. Students must have completed a minimum of 15 hours of college coursework. Priority will be given to graduate students concentrating in Jewish History and undergraduate students who have officially declared a major or a minor in Judaic Studies or a minor in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 GPA in Jewish History, Judaic Studies or Hebrew courses and a 2.5 GPA overall.

Congratulations to 2019 winners Debbie Girma, Percy Amichai Hill, Jessica Isaac, Joni Keaton, Ben Levenson, Q Quashie, Joshua Romer, Avery Simon and Matthew Wennemann!



Study in Israel Scholarship Winners (front, left to right) Q Quashie, Ben Levenson, Avery Simon, Joni Keaton and Matthew Wenneman enjoy an orientation meeting and celebration lunch with Schusterman Center faculty (back, left to right) Alan Levenson, Rhona Seidelman, Ori Kritz and Rangar Cline.

Esther Rose Shnier XI Chapter of Sigma Delta Tau Scholarship

The scholarship is open to any individual who, having completed at least 30 credit hours of college coursework, is a full-time, regularly enrolled student of the University of Oklahoma during the period in which application is made, and who has officially declared a major or minor in Judaic Studies and/or a minor in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0 in Judaic Studies/Hebrew courses.

Congratulations to 2019 winners Jessica Isaac and Graham S. Areyeh Wall!

Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship for Judaic Studies

The scholarship is open to any individual who is a full-time, regularly enrolled student of the University of Oklahoma majoring in Judaic Studies. Applicants must have maintained a 2.8 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0. The overall grade-point average may also be taken into consideration by the selection committee as well as the number of completed hours in the major. Any eligible, deserving undergraduate or graduate student is qualified for either an initial award or a subsequent award if, in the opinion of the selection committee, the student is making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Congratulations to 2019 winner Rachel Lopo!

Zarrow Family Scholarship for Judaic Studies

The scholarship is open to any individual who, having completed at least three Judaic Studies and/or Hebrew courses, is a full-time, regularly enrolled undergraduate or graduate student of the University of Oklahoma during the period in which application is made. Preference will be given to declared majors or minors in Judaic Studies or minors in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 grade-point average in the minor on a scale of 4.0. The overall grade-point average may also be taken into consideration by the selection committee as well as the number of completed hours in the major and/or minors. Any eligible, deserving undergraduate or graduate student is qualified for either an initial award or a subsequent award if, in the opinion of the selection committee, the student is making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Congratulations to 2019 winner Matthew Wennemann!

Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies

Established in 2016 in honor of the Schusterman Center's founding director, the Noam Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies is awarded annually to an outstanding student scholar. Students are nominated by faculty and winners selected by committee.

Congratulations to 2019 winner Kanaan Goldstein!



Kanaan Goldstein accepts the Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies, presented by History Undergraduate Studies Director Jennifer Davis-Cline, at the Annual Phi Alpha Theta Awards Banquet.

HELP SUPPORT US: FRIENDS OF THE OU SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES



Study in Israel Scholarship students Kathryn Diskerud and Emmanuelle Chiocca.

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was realized through a generous grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation in 2014.

Alan Levenson has been working with the University of Oklahoma's Office of Development in putting together a program to help ensure the continuing work of the Center: *Friends of the OU Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies*.

THANK YOU TO RECENT DONORS!

Mary Ann and Jimmy Burdette

Lewis and Pamela Goidell

Dr. Gerald S. Gurney

Rochelle Juanita Hines

Henry and Janice Staat

Anonymous Donors

FRIEND | \$180-\$1,799
PATRON | \$1,800-\$3,599
PILLAR | \$3,600-\$17,999
MENSCH | \$18,000 +



FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Professor of American Jewish Studies

In the developing political and cultural climate, the study of the American Jewish experience has grown more important than ever. We intend to establish a permanent focus on this topic within the University of Oklahoma through either a professorship or chair within the History Department, which will incorporate well into its broader emphasis on American history.

Professor of Antisemitism and Holocaust Studies

As the current global populist wave continues to stoke antisemitism both in the United States and around the world, our goal is to confront it by establishing the Schusterman Center as a major site for research and education on the topic, through either a professorship or chair within the History Department.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE:

<https://giving.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/Schusterman>

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

My Gift *indicates required field

I would like to give \$ * to the Center for Judaic and Israel Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION
Established in 1944 and incorporated in 1955 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the University of Oklahoma Foundation

CHECK:

Please make checks out to
“University of Oklahoma Foundation,”
in the memo line add “Center for Judaic
and Israel Studies” and mail to:

Schusterman Center for
Judaic and Israel Studies
455 W. Lindsey, DAHT 403A
Norman, OK 73019-2004

122-772101



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

455 W. Lindsey, DAHT 403A
Norman, OK 73019

(405) 325-6508
judaicstudies@ou.edu
judaicstudies.ou.edu



@OUJudaicStudies

Alan Levenson, Ph.D.
Director

Tryce Hyman, M.A.
Administrative Assistant

Christa Seedorf, M.B.A.
Financial Associate

Cover Image: Evans Hall