I am happy to report that, two years after our inception, the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies is thriving on all fronts. It is providing The University of Texas at Austin and broader public and scholarly communities compelling, varied, and dynamic views of Jewish culture and history through its curriculum, public programs, and encouragement of research, and it is creating a special focus on Jewish life and society in the Western Hemisphere - Canada, the United States, and Latin America - the home to 47 percent of the world’s Jews.

Ours is a collaborative effort involving students and faculty, the College of Liberal Arts and its departments, Texas Hillel, and supporters nationwide. We have already become a crossroads for scholars and students and, increasingly, are emerging as a beacon of light for Jewish Studies across Texas, the nation, and the world.

The pages that follow present a glimpse of our world. You will meet undergraduate majors and faculty, see the range of courses in Jewish Studies, and review a rich series of programs - lectures, film, readings, and exhibits. They include presentations by writers, artists and academics, including several scholars and writers from Israel, as well as showings of contemporary Jewish film in Austin.

Finally, we have made it part of our mission to publicize the vast holdings of Jewish documents, manuscripts, and books in the University of Texas Libraries, and to offer support to visiting scholars so that they too might become part of our community.

We hope you are as excited about the Schusterman Center’s progress as we are, and that you will find ways to partake of our offerings and help with our efforts. Your ideas, questions, and support are always welcome. Please write to me anytime at zug@mail.utexas.edu.

Robert H. Abzug
Director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies
Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professor of History and American Studies

I am proud and pleased that The University of Texas at Austin and the College of Liberal Arts in particular are the home of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies. In 2006, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation presented the university with a $6 million challenge grant to create a new and exciting center on campus - a first of its kind - where faculty and students would study and explore the richness of Jewish life in the Americas.

The university is committed to becoming a leader in the field of Jewish Studies and the Schusterman Center is making this commitment a reality. The center has become the focal point on campus for teaching, research, and outreach across the wide spectrum of Jewish Studies. It is expanding and deepening the Jewish Studies curriculum for our students, attracting distinguished scholars to the faculty, and providing exciting programming on campus and across the state. This past academic year more than 650 students participated in 23 Jewish Studies courses across the many disciplines within the college.

Our goal is for the Schusterman Center to be recognized as one of the outstanding national Jewish Studies programs. We are well on our way. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, the university seeks commitments to match the Schusterman Family Foundation’s extraordinary challenge grant to strongly endow the center, thus ensuring Jewish Studies will remain a vital part of life on campus. As you read this newsletter, take note of the excellence of our Jewish Studies program and the ways in which you can participate in the Founders Circle and matching campaign.

Randy L. Diehl
Dean
College of Liberal Arts
The Schusterman Center provides a multi-disciplinary Jewish Studies curriculum that embraces the full spectrum of Jewish life, culture, and religion from a variety of perspectives. This past academic year more than 600 students enrolled in 23 Jewish Studies courses housed in departments across the College of Liberal Arts. Jewish Studies has become a growing major and an important resource for all students at the university. Here are some of our courses:

**FALL 2009-2010 COURSES INCLUDE:**

- Aggadah: Legends of the Jews
- Bible and History
- Holocaust Aftereffects
- Introduction to Jewish Civilization I
- Israel-Jordan Relations: Friendly Foes
- Israel: Society and Politics
- Jewish Martyrdom
- Jews in America: The Yiddish Experience
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Latin American Jewish Writers
- Repentance
- Representation of Jews in the American Public Sphere
- Roots of Religious Toleration
- Secular/Sacred Contemporary Jewish Literature
- Rome and Jerusalem
- Women in the Hebrew Bible
- Queen of Sheba in History and Legend
- Spinoza and Modernity
- Classic Jewish Texts
- Concepts in Judaic Culture
- Sociology of Jews and Judaism
- Introduction to Jewish Civilization II
- Jews in Germany since 1500
- Jewish History and Memory in East Europe
- The Church and the Jews
- Birth of Psychotherapy

**A SAMPLING OF COURSES FROM 2008-2009**

- Postmodernist Israeli Literature
- Religion and Military in Israel
- Survey of Hebrew Language, Bible
- Women and Jewish Law in Israel
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Introduction to Jewish Studies
- Introduction to Palestinian Aramaic
- Israel Defense Forces/Israel Society
- Israel/Palestine Conflict in Literature/Film
- Jewish Communities in the Middle East & North-Africa
- Jewish Prayer in Context
- Jews of Eastern Europe
- Key Issues in Israeli Politics
- Politics of Health and Healthcare in Israeli Society
- Rise of Christianity
- Spanish Inquisition

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008-2009 EVENTS INCLUDE:**

- French-Israeli photographer Frederic Brenner discussed “Diaspora,” his acclaimed depiction of contemporary Jews on every continent, as part of the Harry Ransom Center’s “Focus on Photography” lecture series and the Austin Jewish Book Fair. Co-sponsored with the Ransom Center and the Jewish Community Association of Austin (JCAA).
- Israeli writer Meir Shalev read from and discussed his novel, “A Pigeon and a Boy,” at Texas Hillel. Co-sponsored with Texas Hillel and the Austin Jewish Book Fair.
- Professor Ira B. Nadel (University of British Columbia), Leon Uris’s biographer, lectured on the origins of Uris’s epochal success, Exodus, on the 50th anniversary of its publication. Uris’s papers reside at the Harry Ransom Center.
- Working in partnership with the Austin Jewish Film Festival, the Center screened on campus: “Someone to Run With,” “My Mexican Shivah” and “Love Comes Lately.”
- Professor Ann Kirschner, (Dean of Macaulay Honors College, CUNY), gave a guided tour of “Letters to Sala,” an exhibit of letters between Kirschner’s mother and a non-Jewish friend written while her mother was in a Nazi labor camp. Co-sponsored with Texas Hillel, which hosted the exhibit.
- Professor Leo Spitzer (Dartmouth College) lectured about the German-Jewish émigré community in Bolivia. Professor Marianne Hirsch (Columbia University) and Professor Spitzer also discussed their forthcoming book, Ghosts of Home, about recovering the history of the Jews of Czernovitz.
- Professor Moshe Rosman (Bar-Ilan University) discussed scholarly controversies concerning the origins of Hasidism.
- Professor Yoav Gelber (University of Haifa) and Schusterman Visiting Professor, offered a series of three lectures titled “Jewish History and Memory,” which are downloadable at: www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/scjs/news/archives/yoavslectures/.
- Professor Emeritus Herman Freudenberg (Tulane University), introduced and discussed the documentary film, “The Ritchie Boys,” concerning the participation of young German Jewish émigrés as interrogators and behind-the-lines operatives in Germany during World War II. Freudenberg was himself a “Ritchie Boy.”
Our goal is to reach beyond our curriculum to the broad university and greater community by offering lectures, public symposia, art exhibits, musical programs, and other events originating in the Schusterman Center. These are often presented in conjunction with other departments and centers, Texas Hillel, and community partners. The following are highlights for the coming year. For the latest information on these and other events, visit: www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/scjs/.

**FALL 2009**

**THE GALVESTON MOVEMENT CONFERENCE**
SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2009
Symposium at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum concerning the initiative that brought thousands of Eastern European Jewish immigrants through the port of Galveston in the late 19th and early 20th century. Presented in partnership with the museum and with the aid of Humanities Texas.

**FROM ZIONISM TO STATEHOOD, 1948-1958**
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009
Scholarly symposium by professors from Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

**LECTURE BY PROFESSOR FRANCESCA TRIVELATO (YALE UNIVERSITY)**
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009
The early Sephardic mercantile community in Italy.

**LECTURE BY PROFESSOR DAVID LAMBERT (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN)**
OCTOBER 21, 2009
The Idea of Repentance in Classical Jewish Thought.

**LECTURE BY PROFESSOR CLAIRE KATZ (TEXAS A&M)**
NOVEMBER 18, 2009
Emmanuel Levinas and Gender.

**LECTURE BY PROFESSOR MILICENT MARCUS (YALE UNIVERSITY)**
NOVEMBER 24, 2009
“Life is Beautiful” and the Italian Cinema of the Holocaust.

**SPRING 2010**

**LOLI KANTOR: PHOTOGRAPHING THE NEW JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF THE UKRAINE**
FEBRUARY 3, 2010
Kantor discusses her documentation of emerging Jewish communities in Poland and the Ukraine.

**MIRTA KUPFERMINC**
FEBRUARY 23-24, 2010
Kupferminc, an eminent Argentine Jewish artist, will present and discuss her work.

**CAMPUS SCREENINGS AND SUPPORT OF THE AUSTIN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**
APRIL 10-16, 2010
Films to be announced. Presented in cooperation with the JCAA.

**“BAGEL & GRITS”: EXPLORING JEWISH LIFE IN THE DEEP SOUTH**
APRIL 2010 AT TEXAS HILLEL
Traveling exhibit from the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in cooperation with Texas Hillel and the JCAA.
LYNN SCHUSTERMAN is determined to make the world a better place - not by herself, but with the help of a multitude of people and organizations she supports in Israel, Europe and the United States.

Heeding the Jewish imperative tikunik olam, to “repair the world,” Schusterman and her husband Charles (now deceased) have been dedicated philanthropists for most of their lives. In 1967, they formed the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation to enrich and expand Jewish communities around the world, as well as to support their hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, through education, advocacy and community service.

By its 20th anniversary, the foundation had awarded nearly $105 million to a wide variety of causes, from providing support for basic needs and leadership development to widespread support for Israel, educational causes and Jewish communities.

In establishing the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at The University of Texas at Austin with a $6 million challenge grant, the foundation added a new chapter to its philanthropic mission - one focused on the comparative study of Jewish life in the Americas - the United States, Latin America and Canada - an area of inquiry never explored fully.

“One of the roles of a university is to educate our young people about the history and values that are at the core of Western civilization,” says Schusterman, who believes Jewish tradition has much to offer in this regard. “More than a religion, it is the story of a people that dates back millennia, and brings with it a culture, tradition and value system that are very meaningful. I hope to share the energy and excitement coming from this field with the students of the university - regardless of their background.”

Schusterman identified the university as uniquely suited for such a center because of its existing faculty expertise in Jewish Studies, as well as its vast trove of Jewish cultural and scholarly materials. The books, manuscripts, photographs, film and art housed in the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, Benson Latin American Collection, Harry Ransom Center, Center for American History, and Perry-Castaneda Library illuminate the experience of Jews in the Americas and have rich collections in more traditional subjects of Jewish Studies.

The university’s prioritization of its Jewish Studies curriculum was additional motivation for the foundation to offer the grant to establish the center. “Courses have covered everything from an introduction to Aramaic, to issues in modern healthcare in Israel,” Schusterman notes. “That breadth of topics is an important element of the center; and bringing together the knowledge and research tools of different disciplines makes for a rewarding environment.”

While Schusterman lives in Oklahoma, both of her children attended the university: her son for his undergraduate education, and her daughter for an MBA. “I recognized the quality of the university’s teaching and research, and the engagement of its student body,” she says, “And it has great influence as a flagship university in the Southwest.”

The Schusterman Center wishes to express its deep thanks for the early and continuing contributions of The Gale Foundation to the enterprise of Jewish Studies at The University of Texas.

**FAMILY FOUNDATION PROVIDES THE UNIVERSITY WITH EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY**

The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies was created by an extraordinary $6 million challenge grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Schusterman Center honors and recognizes donors who make gifts that meet this challenge by welcoming them into the Founders Circle at the following membership levels:

- **pillar** $1,000,000 AND ABOVE
- **benefactor** $100,000 TO $999,999
- **sustainer** $50,000 TO $99,999
- **partner** $25,000 TO $49,999
- **fellow** $10,000 TO $24,999
- **scholar** $5,000 TO $9,999
- **associate** $1,000 TO $4,999
- **supporter** $999 AND UNDER

**THE SCHUSTERMAN CENTER WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DEEP THANKS FOR THE EARLY AND CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GALE FOUNDATION TO THE ENTERPRISE OF JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.**
**why i majored in JEWISH STUDIES**

**ERICA ROBINSON**

PSYCHOLOGY AND JEWISH STUDIES SENIOR

Through the Schusterman Center, I have been able to explore a variety of aspects of Judaism, including Jewish history, Yiddish literature, and the Arab/Israeli conflict—and that is in just one year. What I find most impressive about the center is its ability not only to reach out to Jewish students on campus, but to all students who wish to explore Jewish culture.

**SAM ROSEN**

MUSIC AND JEWISH STUDIES SOPHOMORE

As a student in the Schusterman Center, I am pursuing a degree in Jewish Studies with plans to eventually become a university professor. This path, which is very much a part of my being now, came only after one Jewish Studies course at The University of Texas at Austin—one course taught by an amazing visiting professor from Israel, Professor Aviad Stollman. This one course focused on Moses Maimonides—the great Jewish philosopher. Professor Stollman’s vast knowledge of medieval Jewish philosophy and Talmud were so well communicated that I gained knowledge I never imagined existed... I am humbled by the knowledge I do not yet have and the teachings I do not yet grasp.

I have never been more excited to wake up and go to school. And I never thought I’d say that! But if my experience learning about the Law and Philosophy of Maimonides is an indication of future courses in Jewish Studies at the university, I know I will always be on time. I am confident this will begin the path toward teaching others and ensure that the experiences I give to future students are equal at best to the encounters I have had, and will have, in Jewish Studies at The University of Texas at Austin.

**ELLIE AGNEW**

JEWISH STUDIES JUNIOR

Coming to The University of Texas at Austin as a Jewish Studies major was a fantastic feeling. I can’t imagine a better place for undergraduate school. People are friendly, tuition is affordable, and I have a great community surrounding my major that welcomed me. This year I learned about Jews living during the 19th and 20th century in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Learning about these periods simultaneously gave me a much better perspective on world Jewry during that time. The center is growing and has made many new additions to its faculty. Some great new faculty will start teaching this fall and I cannot wait to have classes with them!

**UT FACULTY FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**

**PROFESSOR MIRIAM BODIAN** received a fellowship from the Luso-American Foundation for research in the Lisbon archives in Summer 2008. In April 2009, she was invited to present a lecture at the Vann Seminar in Pre-modern European History at Emory University. Her most recent publication is “Crypto-Jewish Criticism of Tradition and its Echoes in Jewish Communities,” in Zvi Gitelman, ed., Religion or Ethnicity? Jewish Identities in Evolution.

**PROFESSOR ROBERT KING** was invited by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York to speak at a symposium on September 14, 2008, celebrating the English translation of Max Weinreich’s classic “History of the Yiddish Language.” His presentation was titled “Max Weinreich: A Life for Yiddish.”


**PROFESSOR TRACIE MATYSIK** published Reforming the Moral Subject: Ethics and Sexuality in Central Europe, 1890-1930, and will be teaching a new course on Spinoza this year based on the research for her next book.


**PROFESSORS**

**ROBERT KING AND SETH WOLITZ**

**LIBRARY DEDICATION**

The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies held a reception honoring Nathan I. Snyder and the opening of the Nathan I. Snyder Library May 12, 2009. As a cataloguer and bibliographer at the University of Texas Libraries, Snyder built an exceptional collection of Jewish resources by enriching the Yiddish collection and adding rare historical and religious texts. When illness forced him to make a move that displaced his own 3,000-volume Judaica collection, he gave his personal library to the Schusterman Center. This rich and wide-ranging treasure has become the seed of a growing library and meeting place for Jewish Studies faculty and students at the Center.

**NATHAN I. SNYDER**

LIBRARY DEDICATION
Faculty

Robert Abzug
History

Aaron Bar-Adon
Middle Eastern Studies

Miriam Bodian
History

Susan Boettcher
History

Pascale Bos
Germanic Studies

David J. Eaton
Lynodox B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

Karen Grumberg
Middle Eastern Studies

John Hoberman
Germanic Studies

Karen King
Lecturer in American Studies

Robert King
Linguistics

Harold A. Liebowitz
Middle Eastern Studies

Naomi Lindstrom
Spanish and Portuguese

Abraham Marcus
History

Joan Neuberger
History

Mary C. Neuberger
History

Martha Newman
Religious Studies

Na’ama Pat-El
Middle Eastern Studies

Ami Pedahzur
Government and Middle Eastern Studies

Esther L. Raizen
Middle Eastern Studies

L. Michael White
Classics

Seth L. Woltz
French and Italian

Monica Yaniv
Hebrew

Field

History of the Holocaust, American Jewish history and culture, history of psychology and religion

Sociolinguistics; Hebrew and Arabic language and literature

Sephardic Jews in Europe, the Inquisition and Reformation

Early Lutheranism, Jews-Christian relations

History of popular culture and consumerism in Europe, history and politics of memory, history of Nazism and the Holocaust

Water management in the Jordan River Basins; public administration

Contemporary Hebrew literature and comparative Jewish literatures (Hebrew, French, English)

European cultural and intellectual history, sports studies, and history of racial thought

Yiddish culture in America

Modern Russian culture in social and political context

Sephardic Jewish culture in southeastern Europe, ethnic conflict, nationalism, material culture, and gender

Medieval Christian monasticism; comparative religion

Comparative Semitic linguistics, historical linguistics

Comparative politics; international relations, terrorism, counterterrorism and political extremism

Modern and classical Hebrew language, computer-assisted instruction and computational linguistics

Religions of the Roman Empire, social context of Jews and Christians in the Graeco-Roman period

French, Jewish Studies, Yiddish, and Afro-Antillian literature

Modern Hebrew language, linguistics, and spoken Hebrew

New Faculty

David Lambert
Ph.D. Harvard joined the Department of Religious Studies. He is a specialist in rabbinic texts, Talmud, and “Classical Judaism.”

Alex Weinreb
Ph.D. University of Chicago

Amelia Rosenberg Weinreb
Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania

Bryan Stone
Ph.D. University of Texas

Suzanne Seriff
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology

Tracie Matysik
Associate Professor in the Department of History

Rebecca Rossen
Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance

New Faculty

From Within the University of Texas

Suzanne Seriff
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology

Tracie Matysik
Associate Professor in the Department of History

Rebecca Rossen
Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance

A specialist in the sociology of religion, joined the Department of Sociology and teaches courses in Jewish Studies on the sociology of Jewish life.

A dancer, choreographer, and dance scholar, will teach future courses based on her scholarly work on Jewish identity in American modern and postmodern dance.

From Left to Right: Mary C. Neuberger, Ami Pedahzur, Karen Grumberg

New Faculty

From Left to Right: Karen Grumberg, Ami Pedahzur, Susan Boettcher, Robert Abzug, Aaron Bar-Adon, Joan Neuberger

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The Schusterman Center is committed to making the extraordinary Jewish Studies manuscript, print, and media collections in our university libraries and archives more accessible. We encourage undergraduates, graduate students, and scholars from around the world to use them. As part of this commitment, the Schusterman Center sponsors an annual travel grant for scholars to use the Jewish-related collections at the Harry Ransom Center. We hope to expand such research support for other collections. In the near future, we will also be publishing a guide to Jewish Studies Resources at the University of Texas.

The HARRY RANSOM CENTER contains extraordinary manuscripts and other collections of Jewish writers, photographers and Jewish participants in theater. The Isaac Bashevis Singer, Norman Mailer, Arthur Mailer, Leon Uris, Stella Adler, and Arnold Newman manuscript collections only scratch the surface of its holdings by Jewish artists, writers, and intellectuals.

The DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY houses several significant manuscript and family collections of Texas Jews, the papers of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, and individual collections that illuminate various aspects of Jewish life in Europe as well as the United States.

The PERRY-CASTAÑEDA LIBRARY contains an extremely strong and wide-ranging collection of Jewish historical, literary, religious, and other printed texts, rarely found in university libraries. Among them is a large collection of “Yizkor” books printed after World War II that memorialized individual Jewish communities of Eastern Europe destroyed by the Nazis.

The BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION include rare Argentine Yiddish theater and literary materials from the 1930s and 1940s as well as works by such Jewish Latin American authors and playwrights as Carlos M. Grünberg, César Tiempo, Jacobo Fijman, Max Dickmann, Bernardo Verbitsky, and Samuel Eichenbaum.

Other units such as the FINE ARTS LIBRARY, THE ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING LIBRARY, and THE TARLTON LAW LIBRARY also contain smaller but distinctive materials related to Jewish Studies.

FROM THE HARRY RANSOM COLLECTION

MARKET DAY, RADIN, LITHUANIA, C. 1930
From the Radin Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, donated by Frank Kasman. The Radin Collection exemplifies the Schusterman Center’s effort in adding Jewish Studies materials to the archives and The University of Texas Libraries.

TEMPLE BETH-EL, MOORISH REVIVAL REFORM SYNAGOGUE IN CORSICANA, TEXAS, BUILT IN 1898.
The Schusterman Center has committed itself to aiding research and teaching about the remarkable history of Jews in Texas.