



May 29, 2015

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The Program in Jewish Studies, an interdisciplinary unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies as well as minors in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies.

The primary goal of the program is to explore Jewish culture, history, society, and thought while equipping students with a fluency in a number of the disciplines offered through the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Program in Jewish Studies is an academic program open to ALL students of ALL backgrounds, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Letter From Our Director, David Shneer

Speech delivered at the Jewish Studies graduation ceremony, May 8, 2015.



Today is a bittersweet day for many of us in this room. The sweetness comes from the accomplishments we have all had, both over the past year, but also over the course of your time at the university, as part of this program that for some of you has become a home away from home. At least that's how I feel as I wrap up my term as the founding director of the Program in Jewish Studies. I've directed Jewish Studies programs for most of my academic career, first at the University of Denver, and then here at CU. I learned I'm pretty good at starting a program from scratch, building it up, implementing structures, and then recognizing that I successfully accomplished what I was hired to do and that it was time for new leadership. As you will see today, CU's Program in Jewish Studies has become a flagship interdisciplinary unit at CU-Boulder, recognized for its engagement with students, stellar scholarship of its faculty and students, talented staff, and a collaborative vision of what higher education can be here at CU and across the country. In other words, I did my job and am proud of its accomplishments, and the time has come.

When I first came to CU seven years ago, Jewish Studies was a start up operation

Learn more at our website
Colorado.edu/JewishStudies

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that the university (and Zilla Goodman and Paul Shankman) had entrusted to me to build. Our first ceremony in 2009 was in a lovely room in University Club that could accommodate 50 people, as we graduated a couple of certificate students and hosted their families, friends, faculty and staff. Now I look around this majestic theater as

we recognize 22 students, grant nine majors and minors in Jewish Studies, three graduate endorsements including our first MFA, and celebrate our collective accomplishments. Although I'm stepping down as director of Jewish Studies, I'm not going anywhere, so for me, I look forward to my evolving relationship with Jewish Studies, and with all of you, under its incoming director, [Dr. Nan Goodman](#), who will be taking our students on a new global seminar to Istanbul this summer and who has already proven an amazing leader of the program. Thank you Nan.

[Click Here to Read More!](#)

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Congratulations to our 2014-2015 Graduates!



On May 8, 2015, the Program in Jewish Studies along with family, friends, faculty and community members celebrated the accomplishments of the Jewish Studies class of 2014-2015. This year, we graduated two Jewish Studies majors, seven minors, and awarded three graduate student endorsements. We also honored our numerous scholarship, fellowship and award winners, interns, and our distinguished director, Professor David Shneer.

All of our students are doing incredible things after graduation or with their awards. Click the links below to learn more!

Graduating Class of 2014-2015

Majors in Jewish Studies

Shikari Browne

Aliyah Lasky

**Minors in Hebrew and Israel
Studies**

Sloan Friedman

Minors in Jewish Studies

Ezra Sackett - Valedictorian
Tomasz Mac
Katherine Peters
Benjamin Scissors
William Tanner

Caitlin Pratt

Graduate Endorsement Recipients

Judd Schiffman
Aaron Stamper
Meghan Zibby

Scholarship, Fellowship and Award Recipients

Barry and Sue Baer Undergraduate Scholarships

Alexis Aaeng
Sally Simpson

Undergraduate Students of Merit

Alex Giltz
Alexandria Harding

Katherine Jacob Lamont Scholars

Toby Bollig
Paul Schirmer

Ulrich Goldsmith Award in German-Jewish Studies

Hannah Allen

Menorah Jewish Arts Grant

Shikari Browne
Judd Schiffman

Rabbi Daniel and Ida Goldberger Graduate Fellowship and Barry and Sue Baer Graduate Fellowships

Kathryn Huether
Sara Krumminga
Scott Meyers
Adi Nester
Judd Schiffman
Joshua Siary
Dillon Webster

Jewish Studies Global Initiatives Scholarships

David Coons - Scotland
Scott Meyers - Istanbul
Benjamin Sanders - Israel
Benjamin Scissors - Istanbul
Joshua Siary - Istanbul

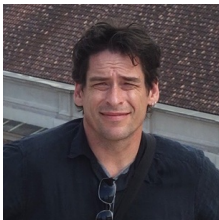
[Meet our Graduates and Award Recipients](#)

[Read Ezra Sackett's Valedictory Speech](#)

[Read Dr. Zilla Goodman's Speech in Honor of Professor David Shneer](#)

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Faculty and Graduate Student Updates



[Brian Catlos](#), Professor of Religious Studies, was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship to support his research project, "Ethno-religious Identity in the Medieval Mediterranean and Beyond."

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Gregg Drinkwater, PhD Student in History, presented a paper titled "AIDS Was Our Earthquake: An American Jewish Community in the Age of AIDS" at a conference for graduate students and junior scholars hosted in March 2015 by the Center for Jewish Studies at UCLA.

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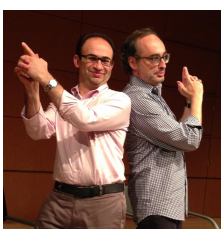
Nan Goodman, incoming Director of Jewish Studies and Professor of English, recently published two articles. She will be departing for Turkey with eight CU-Boulder students this June on the inaugural two-week **Global Seminar to Istanbul!**

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Liora Halperin, Assistant Professor of History, was awarded the Shapiro Award for best book in Israel Studies from the Association for Israel Studies, for her book *Babel in Zion: Jews, Nationalism, and Language Diversity in Palestine, 1920-1948*.

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Sasha Senderovich, Assistant Professor of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures and Jewish Studies, will be on research leave during the 2015-2016 academic year, supported by multiple prestigious grants to support the research and writing of his first book, *Seekers of Happiness: Mobility, Culture, and the Creation of the Soviet Jew*.

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David Shneer, outgoing Director of the Program in Jewish Studies, will be serving on the faculty of the Yiddish Book Center as well as be the historian-in-residence on the Helix Program.

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Nicholas Underwood, PhD Candidate in History, was selected to participate in the Seventh Session of the International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry, hosted by the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University.

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Looking Towards 2015-2016

We are excited to announce a variety of fantastic programs being offered this coming 2015-2016 academic year! Watch out for more information on our fall events, including the November Freedom Seder: American Judaism and Social Justice, our second Embodied Judaism symposium, featuring Arthur Waskow, the creator of the 1969 Freedom Seder, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, co-chair of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and Dr. Riv-Ellen Prell, the 2015 inaugural **Jim and Diane Shneer Fellow in Post-Holocaust American Judaism**. In addition this fall, we will be hosting renowned Israeli-Palestinian writer Sayed Kashua as our

visiting writer-in-residence, and in spring, we welcome our **2016 Sondra D. Bender Visiting Scholar**, Professor Naomi Seidman.

Our offices will be open over the summer!

Contact us at 303-492-7143 or CUJewishStudies@colorado.edu if you have any questions, and check out our website at Colorado.edu/JewishStudies for more information about our program.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

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Community Events and Opportunities

The Boulder Jewish Inclusion Committee is conducting a survey to help provide a more inclusive Jewish community with individuals with disabilities, mental health challenges or other special needs. [Take the survey here.](#)

Find the Program in Jewish Studies at the [Boulder Jewish Festival, Sunday, June 7 @ 11AM-5PM](#) on the Courtyard Lawn on Pearl Street. **Open to ALL.** [Learn more here.](#)

[Ramah Outdoor Adventure](#) is hiring staff for their Jewish Summer Camp in the Rocky Mountains. Positions are open to both Jewish and non-Jewish applicants. [Learn more here.](#)

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For questions or to have information about your campus or community event included in our newsletter, please contact Steve Glickman at Steven.Glickman@colorado.edu.



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