

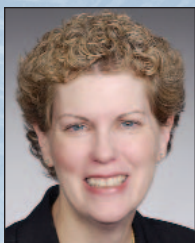


AMERICAN
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NEWS FROM THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

FALL 2006



Pamela Nadell,
Director, Jewish
Studies Program



Russell Stone,
Director, Center for
Israel Studies

FROM THE DIRECTORS

With great pride the Center for Israel Studies and the Jewish Studies Program announce the establishment of the first (so we believe) minor in Israel studies in the United States. This propels American University into the forefront of universities pioneering the integration of the study of Israel into campus curricula. Development of the minor was spearheaded by faculty from the Center for Israel Studies and the Jewish Studies Program in close consultation with several colleges and schools on the AU campus, in particular the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Service. Students have expressed considerable enthusiasm for the new minor and eagerly awaited its approval this past summer.

Our success in establishing the minor in Israel studies and the other activities you will read about here could never have happened without your support. If your name appears in the pages that follow, we thank you for your generosity and hope that you will continue to sustain the Center for Israel Studies and the Jewish Studies Program. If you are not a current supporter, we invite you to join us. ■

Minor in Israel Studies Approved

A new undergraduate minor—in Israel studies—was approved by American University in summer 2006 and was offered starting in fall 2006 as a joint project of the Center for Israel Studies and the Jewish Studies Program.

As far as we can determine, this is the first undergraduate Israel studies minor in the United States. Uniquely, its focus is not on the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is only a small part of the curriculum in Israel studies, but on Israel in the Middle East: its history; unique political democracy; economic development; immigrant absorption; and international contributions in the arts, business, technology, sciences, and letters. September 11, 2001, and the war in Iraq have heightened interest in the Middle East. Israel and its historic conflict in the region are featured in many AU classes. Israel, however, should be studied in a broader context in terms of its historical evolution and society.

Another unique feature of the Israel studies minor is its seamless connection with study abroad in Israel. AU students studying at Hebrew University and Ben Gurion University can receive credits toward the Israel studies minor. Initial student response has been overwhelmingly supportive of this minor. We expect many students to avail themselves of this first-in-the-country opportunity. ■

Polinger Family Foundation Supports Scholar in Residence Calvin Goldscheider

Thanks to a generous grant from the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation to the Center for Israel Studies, Calvin Goldscheider will this year join American University as a scholar in residence in the Center for Israel Studies. His responsibilities include a series of public lectures running throughout the academic year. In spring 2007 he will teach a course on Israeli society. He will also be available to advise students on research.

Goldscheider has retired from a distinguished career at Brown University, where he is professor emeritus of sociology, Ungerleider Professor Emeritus of Judaic Studies, and faculty associate of the Population Studies and Training Center. He is an internationally renowned scholar in Jewish studies, Israel studies, sociology, and demography. He earned his PhD at Brown University and was formerly professor of sociology and demography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and chairman of its Department of Demography. Goldscheider has also held faculty appointments at the University of



Calvin Goldscheider

Inside

- Lectures: p.2
- Faculty Notes: p.4
- Abensohn Endowment: p.6

GOLDSCHIEDER *continued on p.3*

STUDENTS IN ISRAEL

The reintroduction of AU's study abroad in Israel after a five-year hiatus was a great success. Twelve students studied at Hebrew University in spring 2006, five of whom were full-year students—the largest contingent from any university in the United States.

David Manchester, School of International Service, wrote from Israel: "Having spent six months to a year in Israel, AU students are returning to the U.S. with a stronger personalized connection that reflects each of our special interests in the country.



Rachel Seitz, right, with Jen Varadi at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

Alongside our classes and Hebrew language studies, we utilized every moment experiencing Israeli culture, which deepened our understanding of the country. AU students could be found in the local yeshivas studying religious texts, as well as in the field witnessing the events that others were only able to read about in newspapers." Those who studied for a year arrived in Jerusalem in the fall of 2005 as Prime

Minister Ariel Sharon was implementing his disengagement from the Gaza Strip. The spring semester students arrived shortly after Sharon suffered a stroke and ended the academic year witnessing the dramatic change in Israeli politics with Ehud Olmert elected as prime minister. In between were the elections in the Palestinian Authority—another political upheaval. There is no better way than living in Israel to obtain a real understanding of Israel and its challenges. Rachel Seitz, a junior in the School of International Service, said: "Hebrew University has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the political situation in the region, a desire to pursue my studies of the Middle East, and a love for this land." David Manchester summed up the experience of his fellow students, when he wrote: "These expressions of increased knowledge and passion for Israel are not only heard when speaking to Rachel, but they are frequently reiterated by other students returning to the AU campus this fall."

The success of this first year of the reinstated program was the result of persistent lobbying by the Center for Israel Studies for the university to reopen its programs in Israel. In addition to Hebrew University, we have now secured the opportunity for AU students to study at Ben Gurion University in the Negev. Many students have already signed up for these programs for the full year or the fall semester, with more planning to attend in the spring. We look forward to hearing about their experiences this coming year. ■



David Manchester, Jeremy Rovinsky, and Micah Winograd, left to right, at the Roman ruins of Caesarea



David Manchester and Jeremy Rovinsky celebrating Purim

LECTURES

Sponsored by the Center for Israel Studies

- **RAFAEL HARPAZ**, >> counselor for public affairs at the Embassy of Israel, provided a special briefing on the Gaza and West bank disengagement plans.



- **PAUL SCHAM**, >> from the Middle East Institute and George Washington University, spoke about *Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*, a book he coedited (cosponsored by the School of International Service).



- **DAVID MAKOVSKY**, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Project on the Middle East Peace Process and former executive editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, delivered the inaugural Amos Perlmutter Memorial Lecture. This lecture, cosponsored by the Center for Israel Studies, honors Perlmutter, an AU professor from 1972 until his death in 2001 and an expert on Israeli foreign policy and security.

- **BENJAMIN POGRUND**, director of Yakar's Center for Social Concern in Jerusalem, gave a lecture entitled "Is Israel an Apartheid State?" Coeditor with Paul Scham and Walid Salem, of a book of Israeli-Palestinian narratives, Pogrund speaks from wide experience with apartheid in South Africa. He was, for 30



Benjamin Pogrund, left, with Howard M. Wachtel, retiring director of the Center for Israel Studies

years, a journalist and editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg (South Africa), was prosecuted for his work, and had his passport confiscated for five years. In 2005 he received the Award for Justice and Reconciliation from the U.S. Global Citizens Circle.

FROM THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM



Pictured from left, AU students Nathaniel Goldstein, Esther Brilliant, David Manchester, Robert Killip, Jen Varadi, and Arielle Goodman

GOLDSCHIEDER continued from p.1

Southern California, the University of California at Berkeley, and Brandeis University and was a senior Fulbright research scholar and visiting professor at the Center for Women's Studies at Stockholm University. Author or editor of 24 books, he includes among his most recent publications *Israel's Changing Society* (2002); *Cultures and Conflict: The Arab-Israeli Conflict* (2002); and *Studying the Jewish Future* (2004). ■

Generous sponsors of AU's Jewish Studies Program provide funds to support students in a variety of activities related to their academic work in the program. This year the following students received grants to support the research listed below.

- Benjamin Engel, "Displaced Persons' Lives in the U.S."
- Irene Kaushansky, "Oral Histories of Soviet Jewish Immigrants"
- David Marmon, "Jewish Organizational Responses to Jews in the Displaced Persons Camps"
- Joshua Patinkin, "Chicago Jews and Baseball at the Turn of the Twentieth Century"
- Hillary Rothberg, "American Jewish Artists and Their Politics in the Interwar Years"

The program enabled history graduate student Eric Singer to attend the Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History in Charleston, South Carolina.

Thanks to the program's endowments, in the spring all students enrolled in Lauren Strauss's class *Voices of Modern Jewish Literature* saw *The Dybbuk* at the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center's Theater. ■

Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program

- **ERIC CLINE**, chair, Department of Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures, George Washington University, "Jerusalem Besieged: 4,000 Years of Conflict in the City of Peace"
- **JÜRGEN MATTHÄUS**, senior applied research scholar, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Reading Archival Sources on the Perpetrators"
- **VANESSA OCHS**, director, Jewish Studies Program, and professor of religion, University of Virginia, "And Sarah Laughed: Feminist Midrashim"

- **VALERIE FRENCH**, professor emerita, American University, "Jewish Family Life in Ancient Israel"



- **AVINOAM PATT**, applied research scholar for Jewish life and culture, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Jewish Displaced Persons"
- **MARC LEE RAPHAEL**, chair, Department of Religion, and Nathan Gumenick, chair, Judaic Studies, the College of William and Mary, "Representing the Holocaust in Poetry"

ABOUT US

Center for Israel Studies

The mission of the center is to examine and interpret modern Israel's intellectual and creative contributions and achievements in the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts. Located in Washington, D.C., in a major institution of higher learning, the center is uniquely positioned to be a national and international hub for the dissemination of information about Israel and the discussion of Israeli developments, issues, and concerns. The center's challenge is to connect Israel to the next generation of leaders who are matriculating today in America's universities and colleges.

For further information, call 202-885-3780, e-mail rstone@american.edu or adina.kanefield@american.edu, or visit our Web site at www.american.edu/israelstudies.

Jewish Studies Program

American University's commitment to the Jewish Studies Program dates back to the early 1970s. Since then, AU's Jewish Studies Program has included a major and a minor and offered courses across the curriculum, including in our General Education Program, for all AU students. This year, the program takes great pride in becoming the first in the nation to offer a minor in Israel studies.

We count on your support to ensure the vibrancy of our programs. Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to direct your gift.

For more giving information, contact Adina Kanefield at 202-885-3780 or Katie Stratton at 202-885-2515.

Faculty Notes

Richard Breitman, Department of History, was the Ina Levine Invitational Scholar, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2005–06. With Barbara McDonald Stewart and Severin Hochberg, he edited *Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald*, the first of three volumes. He published “Dannecker and Kappler in Rome,” *Deutsche, Juden, Völkermord: Der Holocaust als Geschichte und Gegenwart*, Michael Mallmann and Jürgen Matthäus (eds.). Breitman’s lectures include: “Americans in Nazi Germany, 1933,” annual conference of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, (Washington, D.C.); keynote lecture, “U.S. Intelligence and the Holocaust,” Arizona Bureau of Jewish Education’s annual conference on the Holocaust (Scottsdale, Ariz.); “United States and Germany, 1933–1939,” and “U.S. Intelligence and the Nazis,” Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott, Ariz.). He participated in a news conference about the Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group at the National Archives, and his research was cited in a *New York Times* article about this event. He is the editor of the Holocaust Museum’s scholarly journal, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*.

Erran Carmel, Kogod School of Business, published an article (with J. Eisenberg), “Narratives That Software Nations Tell Themselves,” which includes Israel as one of six nations they studied, and gave a lecture, “Israel High-Tech vs. Indian High-Tech,” at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Kenneth L. Cohen, rabbi and Hillel director at AU, appeared on WJLA-TV to discuss the life of Pope John Paul II. He was quoted in *Naseeb Vibes* (Pakistan), *Pak-Link*, and the *Arab News* (Saudi Arabia) about Quran desecration and was a guest columnist on the *Haaretz* English Web site on Conservative Judaism and gay rights. He was a guest on Cleveland’s NPR station WCPN discussing ordination of gay clergy. Rabbi Cohen was a panelist, along with Christian and Muslim representatives, on a U.S. Department of State Webcast entitled “America in the Post 9/11 World.” His writings have appeared in two volumes, *Readings for Rosh Hashanah* and *Readings for Yom Kippur*, both edited by Dov Elkins.

Gershon Greenberg, Department of Philosophy and Religion, published: “Wrestling with God during and after the Holocaust: A Source Reader” (with Steven T. Katz); “*Shover Shetikah: Hartsa’ato Shel Karski Be-23 Be-Marts 1980*,” in *Jan Karski, Ha’ish*

Ushelikhuto; “God and Man in Slobodka Musar Theology,” which was published in *Central European Jews at the Crossroads of Tradition and Modernity*; “Reform Jewish Thought and Religionswissenschaft,” in *Modern Judaism and Historical Consciousness*. His lectures were: “Mesirut Nefesh Al Kiddush Hashem: Hagut Ortodoksit Bitekufat Hashoah” (Tel Aviv University); “*Avraham Grodzensky: Yesurim Shel Ahavah Ba-Geto Kovno*” (Bar Ilan University); “Faith and Death for the Wartime Leadership of the Slobodka, Lithuania Yeshiva” (American Academy of Religion in Philadelphia); “Menahem Mendel Schneersohn and the Holocaust” (New York University); and “Derekh Haruah: Eliezer Schweid and the Holocaust” (Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem). He was appointed a visiting scholar, Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2007–2008 for research on a new history of Hasidism and served on the Fulbright National Screening Committee for Israel.

Jill Klein, Kogod School of Business, with her husband, Fred Klein, is active in Operation Embrace (www.operationembrace.org), a Maryland-based organization that provides direct support to injured terror victims and their families by working with the social workers at Israeli hospitals. During the past three years, Operation Embrace has worked closely with the professionals at Rambam Hospital—the largest hospital in Haifa.

Alan Kraut, Department of History, has received two previous prizes for *Goldberger’s War, The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader* (2003) and this year received a third prize: the Watson and Helen Mills Prize from the History of Science Society for the best book in the history of science intended for a general audience. Kraut and David Gerber coedited *The American*



Alan Kraut

Immigration and Ethnicity Reader (2005). Kraut’s article “Bodies from Abroad: Immigration, Health, and Disease” has been published in *A Companion to American Immigration*, Reed Ueda (ed.). Kraut and his wife, Deborah A. Kraut, delivered a paper, “Is Your Heart with the Hospital?: Newark Beth Israel and the Survival of the Jewish Hospital in Twentieth-Century Urban America,” at the annual meeting of the Southern Association

for the History of Medicine and Science. He delivered the keynote address at a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League in Pittsburgh, “Defending Tradition: Prejudice and the Rise of the Ethnic Hospital.” He participated on a panel at the Woodrow Wilson Center, “Epidemics in the United States: Public Policy Responses and the Lessons to be Learned.” During the current debate on immigration reform, Kraut has been a guest on C-Span’s *Washington Journal* and was interviewed by the *New York Times*, Reuters, and Knight-Ridder newspapers, among others. He received a special honor when he was elected to the Hunter College Hall of Fame by the Alumni Association of his alma mater, which led to his name being added to a plaque at the entrance to the college at 68th Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan.

Arnost Lustig, professor emeritus, Department of Literature, was awarded an honorary degree by Western Michigan University. WMU’s Board of Trustees in its citation noted that Lustig’s writings about the “humanity of the dehumanized, the courage of the terrorized, and the possibility of moral triumph in the face of fear and humiliation, [have placed him] on the short list for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Pamela S. Nadell, Department of History and Jewish Studies Program, published a coauthored book, *Three Hundred and Fifty Years: An Album of Jewish Memory*, which was presented to attendees at the National Dinner celebrating the 350th anniversary of American Jewish life. In New York and Los Angeles she gave a lecture entitled “Rediscovering Streisand’s *Yentl*: From Yiddish Story to the Culture Wars” for the National Foundation for Jewish Culture’s “Icons of the American Jewish Experience.” She was a panelist and named a Shusterman Scholar at Hillel International’s “Summit 2006: The University and the Jewish Community” and was a judge for the National Jewish Book Awards.

Naima Prevots, professor emerita, Department of Performing Arts, published several reviews for www.danceviewtimes.com, an online publication containing dance reviews from all over the world. She was a panelist at two special events: the LBJ Library’s celebration of the 40th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts (Austin, Texas) and the Bard Graduate Center’s exhibit “Made in America: Nationalism and Culture in the World War II Era.” Prevost served as educational consultant for the Washington Ballet; on

the Fulbright Senior Specialist Peer Review Committee; and as Fulbright senior specialist for a European Union project in Amsterdam. She is completing a chapter for a book on the choreographer Alwin Nikolais; developed a seminar on dance advocacy (University of Maryland); reviewed revised materials for the Dance Bagrut examination in Israel; and led seminars for teachers in Israel about dance education in K-12 public schools. She works with Dance D.C. on projects at Malcolm X and Garfield Elementary Schools in Anacostia.

Rhea Schwartz, former deputy director of the Center for Israel Studies, was featured in an article in *Lifestyles Magazine* that focused on her founding the adult figure skating program for the United States as well as founding and chairing the international adult figure skating program for the International Skating Union. In 2001 she was named "one of the 25 most influential people in figure skating" by *International Figure Skating Magazine*. The article devoted considerable space to her work at AU's Center for Israel Studies.

Rita Simon, School of Public Affairs, coauthored two books that include chapters on Israel: *The Roles and Statutes of Women* (with Stephanie Hepburn) and *The Defense of Insanity* (with Heather Ahn Redding).

Myra Sklarew, Department of Literature, had poems published in the *Potomac, Poetic Voices without Borders, Jewish Renaissance* (UK), *Maggid* (Israel), and the *Washington Post*. Her biography was included in *Encyclopedia Judaica*, and she wrote the introduction to *1111 Days in My Life Plus Four* by the Israeli writer Ephraim Sten. She has had accepted for publication: "Lithuania" (parts 2, 6, 8), in *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*; and "Another Day," *Natural Bridge*. She gave public readings and presentations at Chapters Bookstore, Café Muse, Café Toulouse, Virginia Center for the Arts, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Johns Hopkins University/D.C. Science Writers Association, Inaugural Science Writing Conference (poetry reading based on science), and Finest Faculty Lecture Series, AU. She was a judge for the Charlotte Newberger Award in Poetry from *Lilith Magazine*, advisor to the State Jewish Museum of Lithuania on programs and publications, and board member and participant in the inauguration of the Cynthia Ozick Society, American Literature Association. Sklarew served as a member of the AU Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Governance Committee, which produced proposals for university governance

reform. She was also a featured poet in *Shirim Magazine*.

Marcela Sulak, Department of Literature, spent a month in Israel meeting with, among others, faculty from Bar-Ilan University's literature department and the Arab-Israeli poet Nidaa Khoury. Her translation from the Czech of Karel Hynek Macha's book-length poem *May* was published by Twisted Spoon Press. Her poetry was chosen for the Library of Congress's noon reading series, where she read her poems on food.

Russell A. Stone, Department of Sociology, is the administrative officer of the Association for Israel Studies, an international academic association for the study of contemporary Israel that is housed at American University in cooperation with AU's Center for Israel Studies. He published "New Research on Israeli Society," *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*; a review of Joel S. Migdal, "Through the Lens of Israel: Explorations in State and Society," *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*; and a review of Yoram Meital, "Peace in Tatters: Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East," *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*. During spring semester 2006 he was visiting professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Hebrew University (Jerusalem), where he was engaged in research comparing Israeli and Palestinian public opinion polls from the time of the Oslo Accords, 1993 to the present. He lectured on gender in the Palestine elections at the Department of Communications and Media, Ben Gurion University, and the Departments of Political Science, Sociology and Social Anthropology, and Communications and Media at Hebrew University. He was also invited to deliver this lecture as the opening address at the 2006 meeting of the Israel Social and Political Science Association, the Open University, Ra'anana, Israel. Stone is advising editor of the Israel Studies series published by the State University of New York Press. The series publishes four to six books on contemporary Israeli society, politics, and history each year. It currently has over 70 books in print. He serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Israel Studies* and *Israel Studies Forum*.

Howard M. Wachtel, Department of Economics, published two articles on water security issues facing Israel and the region: "The Intersection of Food and Water Security: A Case Study of the Near East," *Food and Nutrition Security in the Process of Globalization and Urbanization*, Manfred Schulz and Uwe

Krachts (eds.); and "Water Conflicts and International Water Markets," *Proceedings of the 2nd Israeli-Palestinian International Conference: Water for Life in the Middle East*, Hillel Shuval and Hasan Dwiek (eds.). His lectures include "Euro-Dollar Competition as Reserve Currencies," Political Economy of Currency Unions in a Globalizing World, Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University (Jerusalem), and "The Social Market and Free Market: Risk and Insurance," 10th International Karl Polanyi Conference (Istanbul). He is a member of the Advisory Board, the Israel Scholar Development Fund, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, and chair of the Association for Israel Studies Task Force on Endowed Professors and Centers for Israeli Studies.

Michael Wenthe, Department of Literature and member of the AU Hillel Board, presented conference papers on *Gemma Boveri*, by Posy Simmonds, at the Library of Congress, and on *Le Morte Darthur*, by Sir Thomas Malory, at the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies. He has continued work on a study of the medieval Jewish romances of King Arthur.

YediAUt is dedicated to "our teachers and their students" down through the generations.

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Barry Rubin— Abensohn Inaugural Visiting Professor

Barry Rubin, from the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliya, was the first Abensohn Visiting Professor in Israel Studies in AU's Center for Israel Studies during the 2005–2006 academic year. (Additional funding for Rubin's appointment came from the United Jewish Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise.)



*Howard Wachtel, Rhea Schwartz,
Lillian Abensohn, and Barry Rubin*

Rubin's year exceeded our most optimistic expectations. He was a major force in the classroom—his spring classes filled to capacity—and had a significant impact both on and off campus. These selected student comments typify Rubin's impact on the campus: "refreshing and inspiring," "especially helpful in analyzing the Middle East," "thanks so much for teaching this class," "how excited I am that a person of your background is at AU," "the most realistic of any other intellectual or professor I have encountered," "our university was honored to have you this year." He delivered 25 lectures outside American University and was featured in 32 media interviews.

Two special events for the AU campus and contributors to the Abensohn endowment stand out among Rubin's numerous public activities. In November 2005 he

We thank these contributors to the Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Endowment Fund:*

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delivered the Abensohn Lecture about the prospects for democracy in the Middle East—the subject of his most recent book—in the Abramson Family Recital Hall of

the just-opened Katzen Arts Center. And in September 2005, shortly after Israel's historic disengagement from Gaza, he delivered a speech—"After Disengagement:

What's Next?"—to a selected group of major donors to the Abensohn Endowment at the home of Lillian Abensohn. ■

LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

Howard Wachtel Retires, Russell Stone Appointed Director

Howard M. Wachtel, the founder and director of AU's Center for Israel Studies since its beginning in 1998, has retired from American University after more than three decades at the university. A professor of economics, he was twice chair of its Department of Economics, acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and founder and director from 1994 to 1997 of AU's Study Abroad in Paris. He has written four books—many of which went into sever-



Howard Wachtel

al editions and foreign translations—and nearly 100 articles on topics ranging from globalization to Wall Street's history, from the former Yugoslavia to labor in the American economy, and from economic transformation in Europe and the Third World to the politics of international monetary flows across borders. Among five appointments outside the United States were: distinguished visiting scholar at the American Academy in Berlin, Gould Visiting Scholar at the American University in Paris, and academic visitor at the Truman Institute of Hebrew University.

"Of all my achievements at American University," he said, "the Center for Israel Studies is the one that has given me the most satisfaction and pride. To have been able to create something entirely new that is now being replicated across the country and to have brought to AU's campus another face of Israel has fulfilled an ambition I have had for a long time to influence the debate about Israel on campuses in the United States."

Russell Stone, chair of the Department of Sociology, is the new director of the Center for Israel Studies at AU. His interest in Israel dates back to the early 1960s, when he spent a year in a leadership program in Jerusalem and a kibbutz. He studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a graduate student in the 1960s, returned as a visiting professor and lecturer at Hebrew University and Ben Gurion University in the 1970s, and has maintained ever since a wide network of contacts among academic leaders and public



Russell Stone

administrative officer of the Association for Israel Studies, an international academic association for the study of contemporary Israel, which is housed in AU's Center for Israel Studies. He is the advising editor of the Israel Studies series for the State University of New York Press and serves on the editorial boards of *Israel Studies* and *Israel Studies Forum*.

"Our challenge for the future of AU's Center for Israel Studies," he says, "is to provide the university and the wider community with information and outlooks on the many facets of modern-day Israel; its diversity of talents, activities, and interests; and the problems it faces in assuring its position in the Middle East and the world. To do so, we must expand the base of support for our center and continue to provide students, faculty, and the community with programs on a broad range of Israel-related topics that reflect its contributions to society." ■

Rhea Schwartz Retires, Adina Kanefield Named Deputy Director

Rhea Schwartz, deputy director of the Center for Israel Studies since 2001, has decided to pursue other interests. She came to the center after a career as a



Rhea Schwartz

lawyer in both private and government practice and a business woman in Washington. She has served on the boards of the American Jewish Committee, Girl Scouts of America, District of Columbia Jewish Community Center, and Washington Performing Arts Society. She was a U.S. representative at the International Women's Forum in Israel in

opinion pollsters, polling being his major research interest. In spring 2006 he returned to Hebrew University as a visiting professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Stone also serves as

2005. While serving as a member of the board of directors of the United States Figure Skating Association, she founded and developed the adult figure skating program for the association and was named by *International Figure Skating* as one of the 25 most influential people in figure skating. This initiated the first U.S. National Adult Championships in 1995 and a decade later the first Adult International Skating Competition in Obersdorf, Germany, in 2005.

She played a significant role in developing the center both on campus and throughout the metropolitan area, bringing many new friends into the center's sphere and cementing relations between the center and many Jewish community groups. "My time at the center could not have been more challenging or interesting. Whatever I will do in the future, I remain committed to improving the status of Israel on campuses and in the larger Jewish community."

Adina Kanefield, an involved member of the Washington, D. C., Jewish community, comes to the center as deputy director after a career as a lawyer.



Adina Kanefield

She is currently a board member of the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital.

Her interest in and connection to Israel stems from her family roots in Israel: her grandparents immigrated to Palestine in the 1930s, and her mother grew up in Israel. Kanefield spent her summers in Israel as a child, and she attended high school in Jerusalem and college at Tel Aviv University as an exchange student. She is conversationally fluent in Hebrew. "I am looking forward to working with Russell Stone and the AU community in growing the center as a model for campuses across the country and making it a focal point in Washington, D.C., for the study of modern Israel," she says.

Kanefield received her law degree from the George Washington University Law School, where she served on the *Law Review*. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees, *summa cum laude*, in political science and international studies from Emory University, where she served as a Carter aide at the Carter Center. ■

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