LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

GREETINGS!

This academic year is now in full swing and the Jewish Studies Program at Rollins is going strong. Our new professors, Dr. Todd French and Jenny Caplan are doing well in and out of the classroom, advising and mentoring a new cadre of Jewish Studies Minors. Our Study abroad program at Tel Aviv University is up and running. We sent two students to Israel last summer and appreciate reading about their life-changing experiences there. Last week’s Family Weekend Shabbat Dinner, co-sponsored with Hillel @ Rollins was a success, and we are now getting ready to welcome Mr. Itzhak Perlman to campus (November 7th) as part of a community-wide commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Other related events include the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra’s performance of “A Child of our Time,” and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum Exhibition, “Auktion 392” and panel discussion on Nazi-looted art. We have a full schedule of Jewish Studies courses being offered in Spring semester, 2014, including Caplan’s new course on “American Jewish Humor,” a new course by Professor Zimmerman on “Jewish Literature,” and second-year Hebrew to be taught by Ms. Lotinger.

My Sabbatical year began in August with a visit to Shanghai, during which time I taught a group of Rollins students who are spending the semester in China as part of our international and China Center programs. My course covered cross-cultural views of love and religion, in which we focused on China and discussed the influence of western practices and values on its young generation. During this sabbatical year I am completing several research projects. As part of my visit to India next month I will be giving university lectures and attend a conference on Jewish and Israeli Studies. In spring 2014, I will be a fellow at the Van Lear Institute in Jerusalem, during which time I hope to complete my manuscript on love in Jewish thought.

I am grateful for the support of the Jewish Studies Program at Rollins provided by our alums, their families and friends. Your contributions enhance our cultural programs and the vibrancy of the academic study of Judaism and Jewish life at Rollins.

Yours Sincerely,

Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, Ph.D.,
George and Harriet Cornell Professor of Religion
Director, Jewish Studies Program at Rollins College
WHO IN PARTICULAR WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS MINOR?

The Jewish Studies minor may be particularly beneficial for students interested in graduate studies in Religious Studies, International Politics, History, Comparative Literature, Foreign Languages, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies.

In addition, the Jewish Studies Minor serves students who pursue the fields of education, social work, communal service, public administration, law, foreign service, the ministry and/or the rabbinate.

OTHER BENEFITS THE PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER STUDENTS:

Study abroad, service learning, and internships

Course Requirements: 6 courses consisting of:
• 2 core courses
• 3 electives
• A senior independent study research paper
This summer I had the opportunity to spend a month studying in Israel. Although many college students would prefer to study in the more cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv, I chose to study in Jerusalem at the Hebrew University. To me, Jerusalem has always inspired the fantastic imagery of a far off mystical land where biblical events transpired. The Hebrew University offers a huge array of courses in Jewish Studies, History, Archaeology, Politics, Psychology, Philosophy, and more. I chose to challenge myself with a class on the archaeology of Jerusalem. When I arrived on campus I was blown away by how beautiful the campus is. The school was built to maximize and enhance the amazing views of the Old City. I could look out the window and see the Dome of the Rock from my classroom. I am so enamored with Jerusalem and Israel, I have since dropped my major and declared Religious Studies with a Jewish Studies minor, and I plan to return to do a full semester in Israel through the Tel Aviv program offered at Rollins.

-ISSY BEHAM '16

During this past summer in Tel Aviv, I have the opportunity to complete an intensive language training program. For the first 4 weeks, I studied elementary Arabic in which I learned how to write and read in the language. After completing this part of the program, my next step was to be in the Ulpan, the Hebrew language program offered in TAU. Thanks to all my previous Hebrew classes in Rollins, I was able to be placed in intermediate level in Tel Aviv University. The program lasted about 4 weeks; I really loved everything about it. After returning from Israel, I was asked to be part of the study abroad fair hosted by the International Programs as Rollins College. There, I collaborated with the TAU office of academic affairs and was able to promote the summer program in Israel. Doing so was amazingly rewarding; I was able to inspire others to study in Israel and to enjoy the wonderful country.

While studying in Tel Aviv, I met many accomplished international students who came from all over the world to attend TAU international. Living in Tel Aviv was amazing, the city is filled with mix of cultures, its sunny Mediterranean beaches, vibrant social scene and historical places made it an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Now that I looked back at all the memories I gathered from that experience, I realize how much I enjoyed and how grateful for it. My dream of studying in Tel Aviv came true, and after this past summer in the country my love for Israel is now even greater.

-JULIE BEECY '14

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-JULIE BEECY '14

ISSY BEHAM & FRIEND
JERUSALEM
ISRAEL

JULIE BEESEY
TEL AVIV
ISRAEL
I am so pleased to have joined the Rollins family this year! I am here on a one-year Visiting Assistant Professorship while Prof. Yudit Greenberg is taking a well-earned sabbatical. Anyone who knows Prof. Greenberg knows she cannot possibly be replaced, so I usually describe what I am doing as “keeping her seat warm.” I am a PhD candidate at Syracuse University, working on my dissertation in spare moments in the hopes of graduating at the end of this academic year, in August of 2014. My dissertation is entitled “All Joking Aside: The Role of Religion in American Jewish Satire” and it explores the ways in which Jewish satire is not just “cultural” but is often deeply religious as well. I just published a portion of it in the Bulletin for the Study of Religion September 2013 issue (“The Baal Sham Tov: Woody Allen’s Hassidic Tale Telling”), and I am glad they were able to get Rollins College into my byline before going to press.

I have enjoyed very much being a part of both the Religious Studies and Jewish Studies programs at Rollins during my time here. Additionally, my courses have been cross-listed with American Studies and Film Studies, so I have tried to meet as many different departments and students as I can in two short semesters. I am really looking forward to teaching “American Jewish Humor” this spring. The course is based on my dissertation research, so it means a lot to me and the class is already full to bursting; it seems as though this will be a wonderful way to end my time in sunny Florida! I don’t yet know where the winds will take me next, but wherever it is I know it can be neither as pretty, nor as friendly as Rollins has been. Feel free to drop by my office in French House for a chat any time. I have tea. And candy. And I have been known to tell jokes.

Since coming to Rollins from Columbia University, I have been deeply impressed with the vibrant community of professors and students that makes Jewish Studies an integral part of our Religious Studies program. This semester I am teaching two courses that are offered as part of the Jewish Studies minor. In New Testament, we have spent a significant amount of the semester wrestling with the underlying foundations and lasting influence of Judaism on the formation of Christianity. In my Mysticism course, we have taken the opportunity to read passages from the Maaseh Merkabah, Abraham Isaac Kook, and the Zohar. The students have greatly enjoyed parsing the mystical aspects of this literature and its relation to Judaism and other mystical traditions.

I am excited to offer a course in the Spring on Religion and Poverty. In this course students will have the opportunity to engage with institutions in the community that hope to alleviate the problem of poverty. I am working with Micki Meyers in Community Engagement, to include Jewish Family Services as a location for our students to work. After committing a portion of the student’s time to serving in the institution, the final project will ask the student to write an ethnography of the institution, tracing the history, message and efficacy of the group. By plugging students into these groups, I think we can use the world as a classroom for training future citizens and leaders.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

My plans after college involve looking for work in the political world. I have worked for the Romney Campaign in Winter Park, and will continue to look for similar work in the field of politics. My goal is to one day become an elected official in the United States.

The Jewish Studies program helped me find my moral grounding at Rollins College. The Jewish Studies program gave me a home to foster my religious beliefs, therefore allowing me to grow as a person. Without the Jewish Studies program, I can safely assume I would not be the same person. The Jewish Studies program taught me how to think critically in all situations.

Becoming a Jewish Studies minor was one of the best decisions I’ve made at Rollins! Having the opportunity to visit Israel was a once in a lifetime opportunity I’ll never forget, and exploring the rich traditions and history of the Jewish people was the perfect complement to my education as a Religious Studies major. Fortunately, I was recently accepted into the Rollins Masters of Human Resources program and I look forward to continuing my education here in the summer!
WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

YUDIT GREENBERG WITH STUDENTS
FIELD STUDY IN ISRAEL

STUDENTS WITH
WORLD-RENOWNED VIOLINIST
ITZHAK PERLMAN

PASSOVER SEDER
CO-SPONSORED BY HILLEL @ ROLLINS
AND THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

ROLLINS STUDY ABROAD FAIR
JULIE BEECY TABLING FOR
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

JEWISH STUDENT LIFE

Hillel @ Rollins College is committed to offering students opportunities to explore and celebrate Jewish identity in a dynamic and comfortable environment. Hillel connects Jewish students to one another and organizes, cultural, social, and spiritual programs such as lunches and dinners to welcome new and returning students, bagel brunches, Sabbath and Holiday experiences, and volunteering in the local community.
A native Texan, Professor Anne Zimmermann was born and raised in Dallas—a city then still reeling from the Kennedy assassination. From an early age, she heard detailed accounts of that fateful day in 1963. The city may be less-known for its thriving Jewish population, but both would eventually impact her academic interests. Though her family is not of this faith, most of her childhood friends were; she has many happy memories of times spent in their homes. She earned her B.A. in English at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. There, in the shadow of a portion of the Berlin Wall, the storied memories of Winston Churchill’s 1946 visit to campus (to deliver his “iron curtain” speech) cemented her fascination with mid-twentieth century culture. Later, as a student in Purdue University’s MFA program, she was charged with exploring how that and other factors shaped her poetry.

This was an unusual opportunity to consider the truly significant role of Dallas’s Jewish community on her upbringing. These creative efforts sparked research in the areas of Jewish poetic tradition as well as Holocaust poetry. Her doctoral work included examinations of the use of prosopopeia and Holocaust imagery in contemporary American texts. Those early exposures to history continue to inform her exploration of memory and narrative space in American literature. Last semester, she brought childhood friend and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Scholar, Daniel Magilow, to campus. His visit reminded her of her hometown’s influence on her current scholarship—and of the importance of varied perspectives in successful academic discourse. She looks forward to teaching Jewish Literature for the second time at Rollins this coming Spring semester (2014).
FAMILY & FRIENDS OF JEWISH STUDIES @ ROLLINS COLLEGE PLEDGE CARD

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