Summer in Israel: 
Largest participation since PSGS program began

by Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D.  
Director, Pines School of Graduate Studies

Seven PSGS students spent six weeks in Israel this past summer, studying and touring with our faculty in Jerusalem and working for a month at our archaeological dig at Tel Dan. The trip, paid for by HUC-JIR donor-funded archaeology grants, including a gift from the Scheuer Family Foundation, is offered every other summer. This year’s group was the largest since the program began in 2000. The students spent the first two weeks in Jerusalem touring ancient and modern sites and experiencing the land and its people. They were led by Dr. Kristine Garroway of our Los Angeles faculty (and a Ph.D. alumna of PSGS) and Prof. David Ilan, director of our Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology on the Jerusalem campus and director of the Tel Dan excavations.

The touring included field trips to the Old City, the City of David and Hezekiah’s tunnel, Masada, Qumran, Bethlehem, Herodion, Solomon’s Pools and, in the Tel Aviv area where they were joined by Prof. Yifat Thareani, Tel Sheva, Tel Arad, Maresha, Lachish, and Tel Qasile. Students routinely praised Prof. Ilan’s “expertise and storytelling capacity on-site” and “his ability to get us an inside look at the sites.” These qualities “make any tour with him an experience,” in the words of trip participants Caleb Gilmore and Michael Owen.

Prof. David Mendelsson, director of our Year-in-Israel Program in the Rabbinical School, taught the group about modern Israel and led a trip to Mt. Herzl and Yad Vashem — The World Holocaust Remembrance Center. Students also visited the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Rockefeller Museum and the Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv.

A particularly powerful highlight for students was a visit to a Palestinian village in the West Bank, “where we sat down with a group of women from the village and listened to their accounts of the struggle of trying to raise a family in the shadow of Israeli-controlled, tourist-attracting land [i.e., an archaeological site]. That was easily the most poignant experience as we thought through how archaeology affects and is impacted by the politics of the modern world,” reports Michael Owen. Ryan Replogle adds, “It really gave us a more holistic perspective on archaeology that no book ever could have.”

The group then spent a full four-week season working at the College-Institute's archaeological excavations at Tel Dan, an experience much appreciated by our students. Ryan Replogle notes, “I am extremely thankful to have gotten the chance to experience a full season of archaeology . . . By being there for the full four weeks, we were able to really see what all goes into executing field archaeology—the setting up, logging data, different kinds of analysis, problem-solving on the fly, packing up, physical and mental toll, etc.”

Phillip Fischaber shares, “Archeology at Tel Dan was absolutely amazing. Getting into the dirt and finding stuff was an experience that cannot be matched in the classroom. Learning archaeology and pottery reading from David Ilan will have an ongoing impact both on my studies and on my future teaching.” Sara Yeager adds, “I got much more out of the dig at Tel Dan than I had expected . . . From

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Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends of the Pines School of Graduate Studies,

As I write these words, we are returning to classes from the fall holiday break. We have four new graduate students this year: three Ph.D.‘s and one M.A.J.S. Of our new Ph.D. students, two are working in the History of Biblical Interpretation program and the other is the very first student in our new joint Ph.D. program with the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati in Modern Jewish History and Culture. (He is concentrating in the American Jewish Experience and had previously completed an M.A.J.S. degree with us.) We are very excited about this new program, which formalizes our longstanding relationship with UC’s Department of History. Students can apply to the program through either UC or HUC. They take courses at both institutions and have faculty members from both institutions as academic advisors, administering their candidacy examinations, and advising their dissertations. You can read more about this program at https://www.modernjewishhistory.net.

Graduation exercises this past spring marked the culmination of our celebration of the Graduate School’s 70th anniversary. It also was a historic event in its own right: we awarded more Ph.D. degrees—nine—than in any other previous year. We also awarded five M.Phil. degrees and one M.A.J.S. degree. That brings our total number of degrees awarded over the past 70 years to 224 Ph.D.’s and 86 M.A.’s. Six of our new Ph.D.’s already had full-time employment by the time of graduation. (Five are in tenure-track academic positions; one is a congregational rabbi.) The other three have good prospects going forward.

Our joy at graduation this year was also tinged with sadness, since this event took place less than a month after the tragic death of our president, Rabbi Dr. Aaron Panken, of blessed memory. Rabbi Dr. David Ellenson, his predecessor, has graciously assumed the presidency on an interim basis while the search for a new president is underway, and he presided at this year’s graduation exercises. In this context, I must also call to your attention the fact that Rabbi Panken’s family, led by his wife Lisa Messinger, in partnership with the College-Institute, is spearheading a $12 million campaign to endow four Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professorships—one on each of our campuses—to honor his memory and values and to perpetuate his legacy of learning in order to ensure that HUC-JIR can continue to sustain and enhance its academic excellence. We urge all of our alumni to contribute generously to this campaign, which will help to maintain and grow the strength of our faculty into the future. Visit the website http://huc.edu/donate to learn more about this campaign and to make your donation. And while we are on the subject of donations, please recall that our ability to admit and fund new (and continuing) graduate students depends entirely on contributions to the PSGS Scholarship Fund. Every dollar you contribute goes directly to support our students—so please be generous!

As part of our celebration of the 70 years of the Graduate School, we paid tribute at Founders’ Day exercises in March to the legacy of President Nelson Glueck, at the outset of whose presidency our School began its first year. Members of Dr. Glueck’s family were present for the occasion. Our colleague and teacher Prof. Samuel Greengus was the main speaker. Both President Glueck and his predecessor President Julian Morgenstern were instrumental in envisioning and bringing to reality the graduate program for training Ph.D.’s of all faiths at Hebrew Union College.

And speaking of bumper-crop records, we also sent the largest group of graduate students ever—seven—to Israel this summer for six weeks of work and study at our Jerusalem campus and at our dig at Tel Dan. Dr. Kristine Garroway, from our Los Angeles faculty, led the group’s study and activities in Jerusalem. At Tel Dan, they worked under the supervision of Dr. David Ilan, director of our Nelson Glueck School of Archaeology. Students share
reflections on their experiences in the program in the article that begins on page 1. All have expressed their enthusiasm and excitement about their summer in Israel.

Our alumnus-in-residence this spring will be Dr. Tarsee Li ('99), Professor in the School of Religion at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. Tarsee will give one academic presentation and two professional workshops for graduate students. We look forward to welcoming him back. Dr. Angela Erisman ('08) will continue to give two professional workshops for graduate students during the year.

There have been some noteworthy changes of personnel on campus this year. Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Cohen, who served on the faculty for 20 years and as dean of the campus for seven years, has taken a position as senior rabbi at The Temple—Tiferet Israel in Cleveland, Ohio. We are grateful for his devoted service and wish him well in his new position. At the beginning of the school year, we welcomed to campus our new dean, Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Hecht. Dean Hecht has a Ph.D. in medieval Jewish history from New York University and has done adjunct teaching. For the past 25 years, he has been a congregational rabbi at Temple Chaverim on Long Island. He is devoted to the welfare of both the Cincinnati campus and the Pines School of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Nili Fox has made public her intention to retire at the end of the 2019-20 academic year. We are very pleased to inform you that we have been given a tenure-track line to replace her position, which is crucial to both the Rabbinical and Graduate Schools here. The search is beginning now and our goal is to have the position filled for the next academic year. Dr. Christine Thomas accepted a tenure-track position at Xavier University; the position is shared with HUC-JIR and going forward she will teach two courses a year for us. (Dr. Jennifer Grayson, a historian of medieval Jewry in the Middle East, who began her faculty position here in January, is also a joint appointment with Xavier University; she teaches two courses a year there.)

To all of you who will be attending the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and/or the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) meetings in Denver in November, we look forward to seeing you at our annual alumni luncheon. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, November 18. For those of you who attend the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual meeting, we will have an evening wine and cheese reception Wednesday, November 14. Please see the full details on page 8.

At this time of new beginnings, we wish you all a sweet, productive, and fulfilling new year.

Your Support is Needed

Alumni support is vital for funding student fellowships. Our spendable annual endowment income does not fully cover the aggregate cost of tuition that the Pine School of Graduate Studies pays to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute or Religion each year. Additionally, student stipends are funded entirely out of annual fundraising and contributions. Our goal is to accept more qualified students to the PSGS, but without generous alumni support the number of students that we can fund remains limited.

Please consider a gift specifically designated to the PSGS Scholarship Fund. Help us to invest in our current and future students, just as we have invested in each one of you. Every dollar that you contribute goes directly to student financial support. You can donate by mail or online at https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad. For questions, contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or gradschool@huc.edu. We need your support!
From Our Outgoing President

It is with delight that I pass the baton of presidential responsibilities for the PSGS Alumni Association to our colleague and esteemed scholar, Hélène Dallaire. I am grateful for Hélène’s leadership and enthusiasm to assume this position.

As I step down, I want to remind you of two endeavors that the PSGS Alumni Association has initiated and ask if you can help support these efforts. First, last spring, we held a graduate student workshop at the Cincinnati campus. The workshop was an introduction to teaching in an online environment, yet there is much more that could be offered to help prepare our graduate students for ever-changing teaching environments. Consider reaching out to myself or Hélène if this is an informed area for you so that we can resource your experience.

Second, a few years ago, we instituted a gathering at the annual Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meeting. See the details on page 8.

It has been my privilege these past few years to serve you as your president, and I intend to continue to invest in our Alumni Association this next year as a member at-large.

An Opportunity to Serve

Last year, Nancy Erickson, then president of the PSGS Alumni Association, invited me to serve as vice president with the intent to transfer the leadership position to me within the year. The transfer has been done, and it is my delight to now represent you as president on the PSGS Alumni Association and to serve on the HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council. I am thankful to Nancy for her vote of confidence and for giving me this opportunity to serve you. I invite your creative ideas, suggestions, and questions on matters related to the PSGS Alumni Association. Together, we will continue to build a strong and engaged global PSGS alumni community.

My debut at HUC-JIR goes back to the fall of 1993, when I arrived in Cincinnati after spending two years studying in Israel. It was in Israel that the direction of my life took a turn, and my journey towards doctoral studies began. I fell in love with Semitic languages, the Hebrew Bible, and ancient near eastern history and decided to pursue a Ph.D. HUC-JIR had been highly recommended to me, so I applied and was accepted. While taking courses with Dr. Stephen Kaufman, my interests began to take shape and finally, I knew what I wanted to do—I wanted to delve into the grammar and syntax of volitives in Northwest Semitic languages. With such a fascinating topic, surely my doctoral dissertation would become a best seller and make Oprah’s list! It did not!

In 2001, Dr. Adam Kamesar—then Director of the School of Graduate Studies—offered me the newly created position of Director of Hebrew Language Instruction. This was a tremendous opportunity. I served both rabbinic and graduate students. I taught various dialects of Hebrew and a course in French-for-Reading for doctoral students. I developed a language tutoring program for rabbinic and graduate students and worked on numerous administrative and academic projects.

I am extremely thankful to HUC-JIR for hiring me in this position and for allowing me to be shaped as a pedagogue during those years. In 2006, I left HUC-JIR to join the faculty of Denver Seminary. There are currently three PSGS alumni teaching Old Testament at Denver Seminary—two full-time and one adjunct. The three of us are extremely grateful to HUC-JIR for preparing us well for our careers in academia.

Annual Academic Conferences in Denver

As Nancy notes above, scholarly meetings provide wonderful opportunities for PSGS alumni to meet, reminisce, celebrate, eat, laugh, and network. This year, students and alumni of the PSGS will have opportunities to meet at the annual meetings of the Evangelical Theological
making sure we had enough buckets every day to marking pottery until midnight to assisting our section leaders with paperwork, some of us became hugely involved in the dig. I learned so much about methodology that, by the end of the dig, I was being a mother hen for rocks in the ground so that other people in my square couldn't rip them out of the ground before we figured out what was under them. Although the schedule was rough, it was worth it. “Michael Owen remarks, “I was enormously privileged (lucky) on the dig site. I was able to work with advisors in different capacities and attempt different styles of archaeology, which was, of course, a big part of the main goal of the trip. For me, there was never even a long stretch of time without something exciting happening.”

Julia Olson notes appreciatively that “every single second of our month at the dig site was a learning opportunity. The supervisors there did not miss a chance to use each aspect of the dig as a teaching experience that could then be immediately applied to the practical work we did each day. Julia was “lucky enough to serve as a site assistant during the last week of the dig, which afforded me even more opportunities to learn the finer points of running a site at a dig, working through the administrative aspect (concerning paperwork and logging and registering pottery), as well as being given a closer look at the role of my supervisor who was managing a team of volunteers. The entire experience was invaluable to me.”

Also working on the dig were graduate students and some faculty from the Sorbonne and UCLA. Sara Yeager

notes, “We enjoyed the company of participants from every other school, including the dig directors, and benefitted greatly from the leadership of David and Yifat.”

Summing up the trip, Michael Owen remarks, “If all I had to go on was my own experience of the dig itself, then I would say that HUC-JIR should give every student this experience more than once.”
A Sumerian proverb states, “Friendship lasts only one day, but the relations of colleagues are eternal.” As we enter the 2018-2019 academic and 5779 Jewish years, we hope to foster this spirit of eternal collegiality amongst both our new and returning students.

The annual welcome barbecue, hosted by the Rabbinical Student Association and Graduate Student Association, inaugurated the new school year and provided an excellent opportunity to meet the new graduate and rabbinical students in addition to reconnecting with veteran students and faculty at our Cincinnati campus. Despite some wet weather, the barbecue was an excellent start to kindling the spirit of harmony as students contributed delicious food items and great conversation.

Seven of HUC-JIR’s graduate students got a head-start on being more “eternal” members of the community by participating in the Summer in Israel program. Phillip Fischaber, Hara Jun, Julia Olson, Michael Owen, Ryan Replogle, Sara Yeager, and I spent six weeks in Israel both in Jerusalem and at Tel Dan. In addition to our educational tours and conscripted corvée labor on the archaeological dig at Tel Dan, the students on the trip grew much closer together as colleagues and also made significant connections with graduate students from UCLA and the Sorbonne University in Paris. The entire experience was enlightening, rewarding, and provided each of us with opportunities to develop greater professional skills within our respective fields.

With our focus on building a professional community dedicated to collegial ideals, we are excited to welcome our new Ph.D. and M.A.J.S. students into our Graduate Student Association: Rachel Bergman (Ph.D.), Ruby Jeffery (Ph.D.), Lev Rooks-Rapport (Ph.D.), and Devin Olachea (M.A.J.S.). Each new student has been paired with a veteran-student kesher (contact person) who will serve as the first contact person for any questions or concerns. These connections are often formative and long-lasting relationships that help students get acclimated to the graduate school environment and navigate the new landscape of scholarship in their fields.

This year the GSA plans to host several events to promote an atmosphere of professionalism and deepen our communal ties. In addition to our vital GSA meetings, which take place roughly once a month, we will also be working on preparing all students for comprehensive exams, dissertation writing, and conference presentations. At a date to be determined later in spring term, the GSA will host a small conference for students to present papers to their colleagues and other local students of the ancient world. These events, in tandem with the commitment of our excellent student body, will push us towards our goal of becoming more enlightened scholars and a more integrated community. With this vision in mind, I wish all our students and faculty a hearty shanah tovah!

Governor’s Report
by James E. Bowley, Ph.D., Governor, HUC-JIR

As you all know, our alma mater was devastated by the death of our beloved and exceptional president, Aaron Panken. When I received the call that frightful day, I was stunned, mad, and overwhelmingly sad for his dear family and for us, the HUC-JIR community, because I had come to respect Aaron and to realize his outstanding skills and passions for leading the community of scholars and leaders that is HUC-JIR.

Aaron cared deeply about the Pines School of Graduate Studies and all the other schools as well. I saw his care, commitment, and tireless work in so many Governors’ meetings. That is why when I learned of the Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Memorial Campaign, I immediately thought, “This is perfect! The perfect way to honor Aaron and the perfect way to support HUC-JIR, by giving what we need most: teachers!”

Aaron knew that world-class professors are more important than buildings or anything else, and his wife, Lisa Messinger, and the leadership of HUC-JIR know that, too. With this campaign, each campus will have a new endowed professor—four “Panken Professorships.”

I hope that you will seriously consider joining me in memorializing Aaron and furthering his legacy of scholarship and teaching by giving to the Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Memorial Campaign for the good of our beloved College-Institute. You may do so at https://donate.huc.edu/panken.

I look forward to seeing you in Denver!

James E. Bowley, Ph.D. (’92), is Professor of Religious Studies and chair of the department at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS.
Presentations, Publications, Promotions, Births & More

Presentations

**Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting**

**Peter Bekins** | “The History of the Vocalization of the Definite Article with Inseparable Prepositions in Tiberian Hebrew”

**Paul Elliott** | “The Adaptation of Philonic Arithmology in Ambrose’s Letters on the Hexaemeron”

**Angela Roskop Erisman** | “A Supplementary Approach to Numbers 32”; Program Unit Chair, Pentateuch Section

**Kristine Garroway** | “Moses’ Childhood, Unlocking Exodus 4:10: Immigration and Language Acquisition”

**Rebecca Harris** | “Constructing Time and Space: The Last Days as a Liminal Time-Space in the Qumran Sectarian Manuscripts”

**Andrew W. Higginbotham** | “Jacob as Liminal Troper: Exploring Sectarian Boundaries through Rabbinic Interactions”

**“Let Him Come and Be Whipped!”: The Violent Response to Unauthorized Halakha”**

**John Kampen** | “The Gospel of Matthew and Antisemitism”

**Michael C. Lyons** | “Late Bronze-Early Iron Age Texts and the Hebrew Bible in Light of Modern Anthropological Indicators of Famine”

**Benjamin Noonan** | “Loanwords and the Dating Game Noch Einmal: Can Loanwords Be Used to Date Biblical Texts, and If So, How?”

**Justin M. Rogers** | “Philo’s Allegory of Lady Virtue and Dame Pleasure: A Sample Commentary on Sacr. 19–33”

**Jared Saltz** | “He Compelled Those Dwelling in the Land to Rear Their Children”: Hecataeus of Abdera and the Context of Ekthesis”

**“Moses Made Arrangements for the Sacrifices That Were Utterly Different from Those of Other Races…”: Hecataeus of Abdera’s Portrayal of the Jewish Priesthood in Ptolemaic Egypt”

**American Society for Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting**

**Kristine Garroway** | “(Un)Dressing Judean Children in the Lachish Reliefs: Revealing Gender and Status”

**Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting**

**Eric Barrios** | “Exile as Herem and John H. Walton and J. Harvey Walton’s *The Lost World of the Israelite Conquest*”

**C. Hassell Bullock** | “The Formula of Grace Redaction of the Psalter”

**Hélène Dallaire** | “Jewish-Christian Dialogue—From Antiquity to Today”; Session chair, Messianic Jewish Studies

**J. Michael Thigpen** | “The Storm of the Lord: Jeremiah’s Window into the Heart of YHWH”

**Institute for Biblical Research Annual Meeting**

**Benjamin Noonan** | “High-Handed Sin and the Promised Land: The Rhetorical Relationship between Law and Narrative in Numbers 15”

**Society for Jewish Ethics Annual Conference**

**Ari Ballaban** | “The #MeToo Movement and ‘Your Momma’ Jokes in the Babylonian Talmud: Studying b. Sotah 42b in Light of Rabbinic Masculinity”


**Seymour (Sy) Gittin** | “Bronze Age Egyptian-Type Stone Stands from a Late Iron Age IIC Context at Tel Miqne-Ekron,” *Eretz-Israel* 33 (2018): 83-89 (Lawrence E. Stager Memorial Festschrift).


**Births**

**Guy and Crystal Ridge** announce the birth of their son, Arthur Bysshe, on September 7, 2018.

**News**

Hélène Dallaire is new president of the PSGS Alumni Association, HUC-JIR.

Angela Roskop Erisman is Regional Director for the Southern Midwest and Associate Faculty for the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research (https://thebrooklyninstitute.com), as well as running Angela Roskop Erisman Editorial.
The Pine School of Graduate Studies alumni luncheon held each year at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and the American Academy of Religion (AAR) will be on Sunday, November 18, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Penrose Ballroom 1 at the Hilton City Center, 1701 California Street, in downtown Denver. We look forward to sharing a meal with students, faculty, alumni, colleagues, and friends.

HUC-JIR students and faculty are invited as our guests. Alumni who have supported the PSGS Scholarship Fund with a contribution in 2018 are also invited in appreciation as guests of the College-Institute. For others, the cost is $57 per person.

To donate, go to https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad.

For more details and to make a reservation, contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or gradschool@huc.edu. (Reservations are due by October 31. Checks may be payable to HUC-JIR Pines School of Graduate Studies, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220.)

In addition to the SBL luncheon, there will be a wine and cheese reception at the Holiday Inn Express Downtown Denver (Suite 2175) on Wednesday, November 14, at 9:30 PM, following the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual meeting presidential address. For more information, contact Dr. Hélène Dallaire at helene.dallaire@denverseminary.edu.

Both the luncheon at the SBL meeting and the reception at ETS meetings are opportunities to establish or re-establish connections. Make plans now to attend both!