

On the Graduate School's 70th Anniversary: HUC-JIR Convocation Address

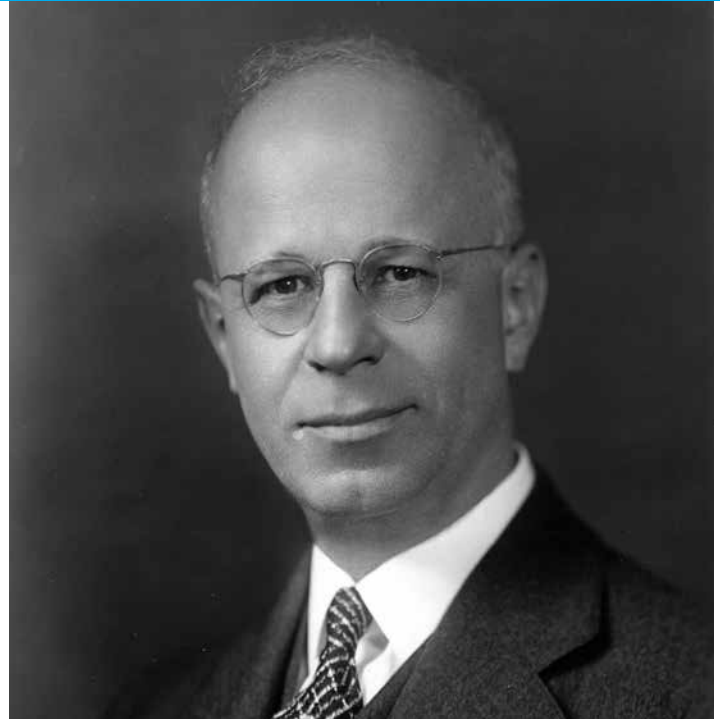
by Richard S. Sarason, Ph.D., Director,
Pines School of Graduate Studies

I am pleased to have been invited to address you at this convocation that marks the beginning of the 143rd academic year of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. We are also marking this year the 70th anniversary of the opening, in the fall of 1947, of our Graduate School, now called the Pines School of Graduate Studies in recognition of the generous naming gift two years ago from Joan Pines and her family, through the Phillip and Joan Pines Charitable Foundation.

Let me share with you some perspective on the origins of the Graduate School at the College-Institute, and why it matters.

While the pre-history of the Graduate School goes all the way back to 1923 when the first graduate fellowship was established for advanced academic study at Hebrew Union College by rabbinic ordines (such as Rabbis Abba Hillel Silver and Solomon B. Freehof), the School proper owes its existence to the far-sighted vision of HUC's fifth president, Julian Morgenstern, and to his courage, boldness, and persistence in enacting that vision. President Morgenstern had already begun to rescue liberal rabbinical students from Nazi Germany in 1935 and would go on to rescue European Jewish scholars as well. He immediately grasped what was at issue in the wake of the *Reichspogrom* of November of 1938. Two months later, in January of 1939, in an address to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, he laid out this urgent vision for HUC:

The Hebrew Union College must now become one of the great centers of Jewish research and scholarship in all the world, one of the great power houses of Jewish learning. In addition to training rabbis, teachers, social workers,



Dr. Julian Morgenstern, Hebrew Union College's fifth president
Photo courtesy of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives,
Cincinnati, Ohio, americanjewisharchives.org

and other professional servants of Judaism, it must now train Jewish students and scholars also, train them in number and in range and authority of scholarship as it has never been able to train them before. It must enlarge and develop all its resources in this direction, its faculty, its library, its museum, its publication activities, its academic affiliations. It must become a greater Hebrew Union College, greater even, not only than actually it has ever been, but also than it has even been conceived of thus far. (Board of Governors Minutes, May 25, 1939)

Prescient words. President Morgenstern understood that, with both Jews and Jewish learning under siege in Europe, the next generation of modern Jewish scholars would have to be trained here, in the United States. The future faculty of the Hebrew Union College would need to be homegrown, rather than imported from, or sent for advanced training to, the Old World, as had been done previously. (In point

News from the Director

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



Dr. Richard S. Sarason

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

We are proud to be celebrating this year the 70th anniversary of the Graduate School at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In that time, the School has awarded 215 Ph.D. and 85 M.A. degrees. The history and rationales for the School's founding are laid out in the address that I was invited to give at Convocation exercises here during the first week of classes. (See page 1.) After Convocation, our students had the opportunity to meet over lunch with Mrs. Joan Pines, whose family naming gift to the Graduate School is so appreciated.

As I write these lines, we are a month into the new school year, which is off to an excellent start. Three new doctoral students and two new master's students have joined us this year. At graduation exercises in May, we awarded four M.A. and three M.Phil. degrees. We were delighted to



Mrs. Joan Pines, center, with students enrolled in the Graduate School bearing her family name

award the Graduate Medallion this year to Dr. Russell T. Fuller, Professor of Old Testament at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in recognition of his 25 years of distinguished academic work. We expect to be awarding a bumper crop of Ph.D.'s in 2018, likely eight, but possibly as many as 11.

Our alumnus-in-residence this year (in March) will be Dr. Michael Graves ('06), Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies at Wheaton College. Michael will give an academic lecture to students and faculty and offer two professional workshops to graduate students. We look forward to welcoming him back. We are also delighted that Dr. Angela Erisman ('08) will offer two more professional workshops this year to our students. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jennifer Grayson, who has just now received her Ph.D. in history from Johns Hopkins University, will be joining our faculty in the spring semester. Her specialization is the history of Jews in the Islamic world, particularly in Abbasid Babylonia/Iraq. She will also be able to provide much-needed instruction on Judaism and Islam.

We also want to announce the formalization and launching of a joint Ph.D. program with the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati in Modern Jewish History and Culture, which will subsume our long-standing Ph.D. program in the American Jewish Experience. You will receive a separate flyer advertising the program.

We will be offering our program in Israel to graduate students again this coming summer, with work continuing at



Seated from left: Cincinnati Dean Jonathan Cohen, HUC-JIR President Aaron Panken, PSGS Director Richard Sarason. Back row from left: Jerry Kaye (representative of the Union for Reform Judaism), Tepppei Kato, Jared Saltz, Keith Belden, Lev Rooks-Rapport, Joseph Mangano, Mark Goldstein, Mark Shaffer

continued on page 11

Address to the HUC-JIR Board of Governors

by Sharon R. Love, 2016-17 President, Graduate Student Association



Sharon R. Love

I am so honored to be with you to share briefly about the activities in which I and other graduate students have been engaged over the last year, and to share our dreams for the future of our beloved College-Institute. First, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself and how I came to HUC-JIR.

About ten years ago, I started seminary at Columbia International University (CIU) in Columbia, South Carolina, after much encouragement from mentors at my church who saw teaching and leadership potential in me. Almost all of the Old Testament and Hebrew professors from whom I took classes at CIU were proud graduates of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. While sitting in classes, learning from these professors, I heard so many great stories about their former professors—intellectual giants in the fields of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern studies like Drs. Stephen Kaufman, Samuel Greengus, and Isaac Jerusalmi, among others.

These world-class scholars had taught my professors from their wealth of knowledge, and my professors, in turn, taught what they had learned to the next generation of Christian leaders, a group of which I am a part. Having benefitted from this accumulated knowledge on philology and background studies that my seminary professors had gained from their time studying under the masters of this Graduate School, I guess you could say that I inherited the legacy of HUC-JIR without ever having attended.

As I finished my M.Div. at Columbia International University under the tutelage of these well-trained HUC-JIR graduates, I knew that I wanted to go on to complete a Ph.D. in order to teach Hebrew Bible, so that I too might continue the legacy from which I had already benefitted so greatly. The best possible place to gain this further training, obviously, was Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the source of all things Hebraic—what some in the field call “the mother ship.” Luckily, I was accepted and “beamed up” to Cincinnati in 2014, and here I am today at the Pines School of Graduate Studies, having grown exponentially in knowledge and skill. Over my three years of coursework I have had the opportunity to study nine

different languages, ancient Near Eastern history, and numerous biblical texts. In an effort to keep my studies “grounded,” in the summer of 2016, I was able to participate in the archaeological dig at Tel Dan, which was hosted by HUC-JIR. Although I found many large shards and a chalice base from the Iron Age that made it into publication, your Board of Governors Chair Andy Berger upstaged me by finding a bronze ring.

In addition to these academic pursuits, my time at HUC-JIR has also given me an invaluable interfaith perspective that has become so important in our troubled world today. Many of my Christian friends and colleagues do not have extensive experience interacting with other faith communities, so I often find myself acting as a kind of bridge between communities. I also get questions about the Christian interpretation of texts from those of other faiths here. In fact, my conversations and interactions with those of different faiths at College-Institute have been some of the most positive and enlightening experiences of which I have been a part. This ethos of intentional pluralism which this Graduate School cultivates and fosters is yet another reason my seminary professors praised and recommended HUC-JIR to me.

My story is very similar to the stories of many of our graduate students, who studied with HUC-JIR alumni. Yet other students were drawn to the Pines School of Graduate Studies through HUC-JIR’s reputation in the wider academic world as the place to learn Hebrew Bible in its ancient Near Eastern context in an interfaith community. I have heard more than one graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion claim that their years in Cincinnati were some of the best of their lives because of the ways they were challenged to think about texts and beliefs in a new way, in an environment that nurtured depth over dogma.

A more tangible benefit of the Graduate School’s reputation as an interfaith community with rigorous academics is the professional opportunities that it affords its students. The majority of graduate students have as their main professional aspiration the goal of teaching in a seminary, college, or university. Despite the difficult realities of the job market for professors in humanities, many of

continued on page 10

A Message from the President of the Alumni Association

by Nancy L. Erickson, Ph.D., President, PSGS Alumni Association



Dr. Nancy L. Erickson

Recently I attended a field trip with my daughter to a local synagogue and school here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her class was invited to learn a bit about Judaism, the history of the congregation in Grand Rapids, and the ways that the congregation helps the community. I happily chaperoned the trip. While the class was getting a tour, I meandered the hallways a bit. I found myself near the offices and picked up some information. Immediately I noticed that the rabbi of the congregation received his degree from HUC-JIR in Cincinnati. I wished I hadn't been so surprised. I made sure to connect with him before I left the synagogue.

Alumni, we share our alma mater with an exceptional group of rabbis (spanning the world), and I encourage you to stay connected. You know how valuable and unique your time at HUC-JIR was; yet, for many of us, our departure from our rich experience on campus also has meant a departure from the larger Jewish community. My hope for you is to cultivate healthy relationships and conversation, especially within the HUC-JIR alumni community.

One easy way to stay connected with HUC-JIR alumni is to participate in Alumni Learn. This is a newer initiative by the Alumni Leadership Council that provides opportunities for continued alumni education. Here's a link that will give

you more information about this exciting opportunity: <http://huc.edu/alumni/alumnilearn>. Keep your eye out for Alumni Learn news, as well as other engagement opportunities in the future, and see the information in the box below.

Another point of connection is through the PSGS Mentoring Program. Several of you have already offered your time to this program, and I thank you for that. Mentoring provides a key opportunity to invest in current students in the graduate program. HUC-JIR alumni have found themselves in diverse full-time positions both in the academy and outside. Please consider your experience and expertise an asset to graduate students. You have the ability to offer encouragement and assistance to those who follow us, in whatever capacity that might be. Your location need not be a deterrent to being a part of the mentoring program. Expectations for mentors include a commitment to consultation and contact with a graduate student, and this can be done electronically. If you are interested in being involved or would like further information, please contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or sgoldfarb@huc.edu.

Another opportunity for connection is to attend the alumni luncheon at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Boston. We also reserved a room for us at The Evangelical Theological Society annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. See the full details on page 12.

Alumni Learn

The Office of Alumni Engagement and Development announces the following webinars that would be of interest to PSGS alumni. The times indicated (Eastern Time) are for live streaming. After each webinar, the program will be archived and available as your schedule permits. For additional offerings and information, go to <http://huc.edu/alumni/alumnilearn/alumnilearn-calendar>.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 24, 11:00 AM

ENGAGING LEARNERS WITH ISRAEL

Embracing the Other: Learning from Jerusalem Jewish and Arab Teachers in Dialogue. *Dr. Michal Muszkat-Barkan, Director, Department of Education and Professional Development; Director, M.A. Program in Pluralistic Jewish Education*

Monday, October 30, 1:00 PM

MODERN JEWISH ETHICS

The Conceptual Language of Modern Jewish Ethics. *Rabbi Rachel Adler, Ph.D., Rabbi David Ellenson Professor of Jewish Religious Thought, Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Feminist Studies*

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 16, 1:00 PM

MODERN JEWISH ETHICS

The Ethical Dilemmas of a Shared Society. *Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D., Solomon B. Freehof Professor of Jewish Law and Practice*

Monday, November 27, 12:00 PM

ENGAGING LEARNERS WITH ISRAEL

Teaching Israel, Israel Teaching: HUC-JIR's Israel Seminar as Example. *Jeremy Leigh, Coordinator, Richard J. Scheuer Israel Seminar, and Dr. David Mendelsson, Director, Year-In-Israel Program*

Graduate Student Association Update

by Chelsea A. Simon, President, Graduate Student Association



Chelsea Simon

Shanah tovah u'metuqah! As each of you begins this new year (5778 already!), HUC-JIR's graduate students are enjoying the first break of the 2017-2018 school year. While their Rabbinical School colleagues are leading services at pulpits, many Master's and Ph.D. students here are attending services, preparing projects and papers, or visiting family. Although the year has

barely begun, many students have been kept busy with translating, adjusting to a new location or school year, and preparing for the next steps of their degrees.

In two weeks, the first meeting of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) will convene just before Simchat Torah. This organization exists to connect students to each other, to faculty and administration, and to the larger HUC-JIR community (particularly in Cincinnati). Meetings alert students to academic and service opportunities, administrative decisions and discussions, and available resources. During the monthly meetings of the GSA, students will have the opportunity to learn about their colleagues and members of the HUC-JIR staff through short introductions. This year, the Klau Library will strengthen its relationship with the GSA by hosting the meetings and offering their inimitable resources. In addition to this relationship, the GSA will continue to contribute to relevant conversations with the Graduate Executive Committee, which governs the School, and will participate in community service work each semester.

Every year, the GSA joins with the Rabbinical Student Association (RSA) to host several events. So far this year, these events have included a campus-wide barbecue during Orientation Week and lunches at the American Jewish Archives (AJA) with Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York, and Joseph Levin, a co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The RSA and GSA also plan to co-host at least one interfaith Shabbat service this year. This spring the GSA will host its third annual Graduate Student Passover Seder, often the first Seder new students will have attended. The relationships between students go beyond these groups, however, as many maintain

friendships outside of school, sharing meals and exploring Cincinnati.

This year, the PSGS welcomed three new Ph.D. students and two master's students. Phillip Fischaber, who joined the Graduate School after receiving his master's from Concordia Theological Seminary, and Julia Olson, who received after her master's from Luther Seminary, are new Cincinnati students pursuing Ph.D.s in Hebrew Bible. Ryan Replogle is also pursuing his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible; he studied in the master's program at HUC-JIR last year. Amichai Levy came to Cincinnati from Boston and Sara Yeager from Florida to pursue their master's degrees. We wish our new students much success in their programs and are here to support them.



New PSGS students Amichai Levy, Phillip Fischaber, Sara Yeager, Julia Olson, and Ryan Replogle

Presentations, Publications, Promotions, Births & More

Presentations

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting

Bill T. Arnold

"Second-Person Address in Deuteronomy and the Urge to Say Too Much." SBL Book of Deuteronomy Consultation

Kurt Backlund

"New Light on The Son of the Dawn: Isaiah's Subversion of Babylonian Myth"

Eric Anthony Barrios

"Danites: Descendants of Israel or Greece?" Institute for Biblical Research session

C. Hassell Bullock

"Yahweh's Condescension in the Psalter: A Theological Cradle of the Incarnation." Institute for Biblical Research session

Kristine Henriksen Garroway

"Children in the Biblical World"

Michael Graves

"Biblical Motifs in Ibn Ishāq's *Life of Muhammad*"

Kyle R. Greenwood

"Anonymous Biblical Kings in Light of the Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles"

Andrew Higginbotham

"Jacob ... or Jacobs?: Discerning the Judeo-Christian Interlocutor 'Jacob of Kfar ...' in Rabbinic Context"

Teppeï Kato

"Presenting Jews as Philosophers: The Image of the Jews in Greek Literature and the Jews' Self-Image in Judeo-Hellenistic Literature"

Guy Ridge

"The Rational Ancient Near Eastern Sovereign: A Case Study for Using Methodological Individualism and Rational Choice Theory in Ancient Near Eastern Studies"

Justin Rogers

"A Little Cain in All of Us: *De Cherubim* as an Introduction to Philo's 'Cain Trilogy'"

Sung Jin

"The Postulated Phonetic Value Changes of *Shewa* in Light of Tiberian Accentual Contexts." National Association of Professors of Hebrew session

Kenneth Way

Presiding, Institute for Biblical Research session on "Early Historical Books (Joshua-Kings)"

American Society for Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting

Kristine Henriksen Garroway

"Childist Archaeology: Children, Toys and Skill Transmission in Ancient Israel"

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) Annual Conference

Andrew Higginbotham

"Stubborn and Rebellious Ones: Deut 21 in the Context of 'Wayward' Jewish Factions of the First Centuries CE"

Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting

Bryan Beyer

Participating, Board of Directors Meeting, Jerusalem University College (whose president, Dr. Paul Wright, is also a PSGS alumus). Also presiding as chair, Associated Schools of JUC Meeting.

Hélène Dallaire

"A 'Mixed Multitude': Gentiles in the Messianic Movement." Messianic Jewish Studies: History, Theology and Praxis Consultation

Russell Fuller

"John Owen and the Traditional Protestant View of the Hebrew Old Testament"

International Society of Biblical Literature and the European Association of Biblical Studies Joint Meeting

Bill T. Arnold

"The Holiness Redaction of the Primeval History," in the program unit "The Editorial Techniques in the Hebrew Bible in Light of Empirical Evidence." Accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 129/4 (2017).

World Congress of Jewish Studies

Vadim Putzu

"'Sweetening the Judgment' across the Mediterranean: An Oenological Interpretation"

Eastern Great Lakes Bible Society Regional Conference

Sharon Love

"Parlance, Politics, and Personality: Responses to Insults in the International Amarna Letters." Awarded the Conference student paper prize.

Boston University Religion Conference

Rabbi Gavi S. Ruit

“Rape, Rape Myth, and Jewish Tradition in the Modern Age”

Publications

Bill T. Arnold

The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East. Edited with Brent A. Strawn. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

“Graf and Wellhausen, and Their Legacy” (with David B. Schreiner) in *A History of Biblical Interpretation, Volume 3: The Enlightenment through the Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Alan J. Hauser and Duane F. Watson. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017. 252-73.

“Reexamining the ‘Fathers’ in Deuteronomy’s Framework” in *Torah and Tradition: Papers Read at the Sixteenth Joint Meeting of the Society for Old Testament Study and the Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap, Edinburgh 2015*. Edited by Klaas Spronk and Hans Barstad. Oudtestamentische Studiën 70. Leiden: Brill, 2017. 10-41.

“Israelite Worship as Envisioned and Prescribed in Deuteronomy 12,” *Zeitschrift für altorientalische und biblische Rechtsgeschichte* 22 (2016): 161-175.

Hélène Dallaire

Biblical Hebrew: A Living Language, revised edition with accompanying website www.biblicalhebrew-livinglanguage.com. Self-published, 2016.

“Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?” *A Grammatical Tribute to Professor Stephen A. Kaufman on the Occasion of His Retirement from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion*. Edited by Hélène Dallaire, Jennifer Noonan and Benjamin Noonan. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2017.

Russell Fuller

Invitation to Biblical Hebrew Syntax: An Intermediate Grammar. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2017.

Seymour Gitin

Tel Miqne-Ekron Excavations 1985-1995, Field IV Lower—The Elite Zone Part 2, The Iron Age II Late Philistine City, Part 3/A The Data Base (on the HSM web site). Edited with Trude Dothan and Yosef Garfinkel. Published under the auspices of the Harvard Semitic Museum on behalf of the Albright Institute and the Hebrew University. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2017.

Michael Graves

Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church. Ad Fontes: Early Christian Sources Series. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017.

Vadim Putzu

“Tasting Heaven: Wine and the World-to-Come from the Talmud to Safed.” *Olam ha-zeh v’olam ha-ba: This World and the World to Come in Jewish Belief and Practice. Studies in Jewish Civilization*, vol. 28. Edited by Leonard Greenspoon. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2017. 151-170.

Sung Jin

Typology in Biblical Hebrew Meter: A Generative Metrical Approach. New York: Edwin Mellen, 2017.

J. Michael Thigpen

“Our Representational Reign: Royal Leadership in the United Monarchy,” in *Biblical Leadership: Theology for the Everyday Leader*. Edited by Benjamin K. Forrest and Chet Roden. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2017. 121-36.

Promotions

Joel Allen has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD, where he serves as chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy.

Hélène Dallaire has been promoted to the Earl S. Kalland Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Denver Seminary in Denver, CO.

Andrew Higginbotham has been hired as Assistant Professor of Science at Ivy Tech Community College in Lawrenceburg, IN.

Births

Tepepei and Rena Kato announce the birth of their daughter, Hana Sophia, on May 5.

Michael and Erin Lyons announce the birth of their son, Joel Isaiah, on May 27.

Drs. Jason Kalman and Dana Herman announce the birth of their twins, Libby Rose and Harry George, on September 18.

Miscellaneous

Joel Allen led a trip to Israel with 30 people, 12 of whom were college students.

Vadim Putzu has created a new travel study program called “A Booted History of Judaism,” open to all students enrolled in U.S. universities. It is a three-credit course consisting of a series of Skype lectures plus a ten-day stay in Rome, Venice, and Apulia in Italy.

70th Anniversary

continued from page 1

of fact, 20 members of the faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion have received their Ph.D.'s from our Graduate School since 1951.)

But President Morgenstern raised the stakes beyond just the training of future HUC faculty. He asserted that the College had to take the lead in providing the larger world of learning with professionally trained scholars of Judaism, and the American Jewish community with learned intellectual leadership. In May of 1944, he urged the Board of Governors to anticipate “a proper post-war program for our College, and adequate preparation for this.” Once again, he maintained that:

... under the force of historical circumstance, the service which the College has rendered during these past sixty-nine years becomes small in comparison with the service which it is now called upon to render. It must, of necessity, and as an inadvertent duty to world-Judaism, establish itself as a great center of Jewish religious scholarship for the entire world ... The task of [our] faculty must be not only teaching, although that in the first degree, but likewise effective scientific research, and productive and creative Jewish scholarship ... We must develop a department in which graduate work in the various fields of Jewish learning can be carried on systematically. (Board of Governors Minutes, May 10, 1944)

Significantly, President Morgenstern at this time also argued for an expansion of the academic publication activities of the College in order to promote its scholarly work and reputation. He acknowledged the role of the *Hebrew Union College Annual* in contributing more than anything else to the “present scholarly prestige and authority which the Hebrew Union College enjoys.”

... But [he continued,] in the light of new duties and responsibilities confronting our College these resources for publication of the scholarly productions not only of our faculty, staff, and alumni, but likewise of other Jewish scholars only indirectly connected with our College, must be greatly expanded. (ibid.)

To their great credit, the Board of Governors responded positively to President Morgenstern's bold initiative with an equally bold plan to grow the College's endowment

fund dramatically, abetted to be sure by the heady postwar economic recovery. President Morgenstern decided, for personal reasons, to step down from the College presidency in 1947, and so the Graduate School opened its doors in September of that year under the more youthful presidency of Nelson Glueck, who was to articulate his own vision for the School, and for the College as a whole, as follows:

We are a liberal institution of higher learning in Judaism. Born and bred in the American scene, the College-Institute shares in the spirit of free inquiry and study which marks American colleges and universities ... Nothing in the Jewish past or present is alien to our interest. We cherish the right of the free conscience to study Judaism, and we impose the need to study as an obligation on candidates for the Reform rabbinate. We have confidence that the accurate and affirmatively critical and free study of our tradition will ensure its survival and enhance its sanctity. We are dedicated to God and to Israel. (HUC-JIR Academic Catalogues from the 1960's)

It is that same vision of the College-Institute and of its graduate programs that sustains the School today.

There is yet another highly important, indeed unique, feature of the Graduate School that needs to be mentioned, and that is its interfaith dimension. From its very opening in 1947, the student body has included both Jews and Christians studying together, as well as with rabbinical students. The origins of our interfaith program lie in the social and religious concerns of the immediate post-war period. In the spring of 1945, three HUC professors gave lectures at the Duke University Divinity School. The resolution of gratitude from the School's faculty, notes that:

... our own lecturers found their contacts with the faculty and students of Hebrew Union College a source of great personal enrichment. This two-way communication has given us an excellent understanding of the faith and spirit of Hebrew Union College; and we shall hereafter ever regard ourselves as partners in the building of a more vital Judeo-Christian community in America. (Board of Governors Minutes, May 2, 1945)

Read this against the background of the German Evangelical Church's official public silence in the face of Nazi anti-Semitism and state-sponsored violence against the

Jews, and the stakes become immediately clear. The College chose to actively assist in the building of yet stronger interfaith relations, promoting mutual understanding and respect in this country in the wake of the Second World War and the Holocaust, through including students of other faiths in our learning community. In May of 1946, President Morgenstern recommended an appropriation from the College's budget to establish two graduate fellowships in Jewish studies for Christian students. These students, he noted, "should be honor graduates of outstanding Christian theological seminaries, and should be nominated for such Fellowships here at our College by their own faculties. . . . The potentialities of this service are, of course, immeasurable and are thoroughly in accord with the American interdenominational tradition." (Board of Governors Minutes, May 8, 1946)

In fact, the Board voted to establish three such fellowships, instead of two—and by 1951-52, there were five Christian students in the program. In 1949, the Department of Education of the State of Ohio authorized the College to award the Ph.D. degree in Hebraic and Cognate Studies, and the first three Ph.D.'s were awarded in 1951, all of them to ordines of the College, two of whom—Drs. Stanley Dreyfus and Ezra Spicehandler—became members of our faculty.

Here ends the history lesson. What can we learn from all of this for today, as we begin the new school year? I would say at least three things:

1) Sadly, in light of most recent events, there is even more need today for mutual understanding and respect among the citizens of our country. The interfaith learning and living that we engage in here on a daily basis could not be more important. While maintaining a proper self-respect for our own religious identities, we must reach out beyond our own traditions and silos. Coming together as fellow learners and fellow religious seekers strengthens the civic fabric of decency and inclusiveness that we wish for our country and that is, unfortunately, fraying right now.

2) Second, the kind of liberal learning that the College-Institute has always stood for, and for which it stands today, is also being challenged. The College-Institute takes religious tradition seriously, but also the insights of modern humanistic learning. We appreciate today the non-rational and emotive aspects of religion, but value as well disciplined religious thought and the life of the mind. We try to

promote a balance among these elements. That is one of the reasons why it is so important to have rabbinical students and graduate students studying together. Each population stimulates and challenges the other.

3) Finally, the model of what President Morgenstern both advocated and did in the 1930's and 40's in response to the European crisis should always be before our minds, including his enlarged vision of the mission of this institution. We live in an era of down-sizing and economic retrenchment. Yes, we have to behave responsibly and be practical. But, I would urge, not too practical. We still need "the vision thing." We still need to stand as an institution for an enlarged concept of *talmud torah*—of Jewish and academic study—that is inclusive, and an enlarged concept of the College-Institute that is and must remain one of the great centers of Jewish learning in the world.

As we begin this new academic year, I would issue this challenge to all of us: let us learn as much as we can, so that we may teach and do as much as we can to make this world we live in together a better place for us all. To paraphrase our tradition (*Mishnah Avot 2:21*): we may not be able to complete the task, but we are not free to desist from it.

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 (which is rising) that the PSGS pays to the College-Institute 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.

As you know, we no longer ask you for annual dues. 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 sgoldfarb@huc.edu. *We need your support!*

Address to the Board of Governors

continued from page 3

our graduates continue to secure jobs because of the solid philological training and broad interfaith perspective they gain here. In the past year alone, three of our Ph.D. candidates have secured full-time, tenure-track positions in Florida and California, teaching Bible, biblical languages, and cognate subjects at Christian universities. Like me, they are beneficiaries of HUC-JIR's legacy, and they are now fully engaged in perpetuating that legacy by teaching Bible to the next generations.

The reputation of HUC-JIR's Graduate School has also been on display at various academic conferences at which graduate students have presented and even won prizes. For the last five years, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion students have won the student paper prize at the Eastern Great Lakes Bible Society regional conference, excelling among other students from elite graduate schools such as Notre Dame and Wheaton. The student paper prize also leads to published papers in academic journals, propelling HUC-JIR's students to the forefront of cutting-edge academic forums.

Due to the efforts of alumnus Dr. John Kampen, Dean Jonathan Cohen, and PSGS Directors, Drs. Nili Fox and Richard Sarason, relationships between the Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio in Columbus, Ohio, and the University of Dayton (OH) have been forged to offer advanced graduate students opportunities to teach in a variety of settings—both religious and secular. Thus, the legacy of solid exegesis, critical text work, and Judaic thought to which our graduate students have been exposed at HUC-JIR is being perpetuated in the academic communities surrounding Cincinnati. Students who have received the gift of study here are now becoming givers of the gift to other learners.

This benevolent and intentional act of bequeathing a legacy to the next generation through the passing down of knowledge is not new. In Deuteronomy 6 and 11, Moses implores the children of Israel to sow the seeds of faith in the next generation by teaching them the commandments. Deuteronomy 11:9 says: "You shall teach them to your children, talking about them when you are sitting in your house and when you are walking in the road, when you lie down and when you rise."

Moses couches this directive in the context of future blessings, telling the people that if they are faithful to

perpetuate the legacy of righteousness he has passed down to them, God will bless them with protection and success among the nations. Moses demonstrates that he knows the legacy of the people is a precious and fragile thing, dependent upon buy-in from the succeeding generations. Barring the perpetuation of the legacy, future generations will not know what happened in the wilderness. They will not know the faithfulness of God. They will not know what is expected of the people of God. They will not know how to remain connected to each other in community. All of the lessons learned on the 40-year journey will be lost, and the distinctiveness of the nation of Israel will be absorbed into the common Canaanite culture.

There are many connections we can make between the Israelites on the other side of the Jordan and ourselves as the leaders upon whose shoulders the future of HUC-JIR rests. First, there is the recognition that, like the Israelites who inherited the Promised Land, we have been given a great gift. It is no exaggeration to say that Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has blessed the world. This generous institution has educated students from as far away as Africa and Asia, sending them back well-equipped to teach texts and tolerance in their homelands.

Second, like the Israelites who were charged with perpetuating the legacy handed down to them by Moses, we have been given a great responsibility to continue the legacy that we have received. My fellow graduate students and I know that we are inheritors of the greatest gift of all—education. That donors, Governors, Overseers, administrators, faculty members, and staff members invest so much in us through support, oversight, and administration is not lost on us. We recognize and appreciate the various ways people are investing in our lives, and as a result, we want to represent HUC-JIR very well in the various communities with which we engage. Specifically, we want to continue to perpetuate Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's legacy by teaching Bible and cognate subjects in various interfaith contexts.

The legacy of Governors and administrators includes the responsibility to steer this institution thoughtfully through both calm and rough waters, always onward toward loftier destinations while holding tradition in the highest regard. Faculty members and staff members are charged with the responsibility of day-to-day operations that are essential in

a fast-paced academic environment. Thus, if any one of us neglects our responsibilities, the prestigious legacy of the College-Institute will falter.

With the understanding that we, in our various capacities, have been given the gift and the responsibility to perpetuate the legacy of HUC-JIR, I would like to take a moment to dream about the future of this great institution with you. The legacy of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, as I see it from my experiences as a graduate student and a student-body leader, is two-fold: the reputation that the Graduate School has earned all around the world is that of a text-based, rigorous academic program that prepares students to teach Bible and cognate disciplines in a variety of settings. The other component of HUC-JIR's legacy is its unique, interfaith environment.

In this era of tight budgets and shifting academic winds, graduate students want to see this two-fold legacy, a text-based program in an interfaith context, thrive. This unique legacy is what makes the Pines School of Graduate Studies stand out among other graduate schools and draw in new students from a variety of faith backgrounds, ethnicities, and regions. In a world that is becoming increasingly segregated along religious lines, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion can continue to be a model learning community, prioritizing interfaith dialogue and collaboration.

For this to happen, each of us in our various capacities must continue to prioritize the actions that accomplish this goal. Current and former graduate students must continue, in their spheres of influence, to spread the word about all that HUC-JIR has to offer to potential students who want to study Bible and cognate disciplines so that we continue to attract the best students. And HUC-JIR's leadership must continue to make crucial decisions about the allocation of resources that prioritize those components most crucial to the perpetuation of HUC-JIR's legacy—text-study in an interfaith context. With these challenges in mind, the faculty hires that are currently taking place are very encouraging to graduate students. We are hopeful about the future of this great institution, and we are honored to be a small part of its legacy.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to report about the endeavors in which graduate students have been engaged over the last year and to share our hopes for the future. Finally, I wish you Godspeed as you prepare for the upcoming academic year. Your contribution of time, energy, and wisdom to those issues that concern the Pines School of Graduate Studies and the whole College-Institute is appreciated.

News from the Director *continued from page 2*

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We recently sent out an employment survey to all alumni. In addition to keeping our data collection accurate and up-to-date, information gathered from this survey will be helpful for recruitment and of value to our current students. Please remember that you, our alumni, are our best recruiters. Continue to send your most promising students our way!

Our annual alumni luncheon at the Society of Biblical Literature national meeting will take place this year on Sunday, November 19, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the Commonwealth Room at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. (See

full details on page 12.) This year's luncheon will be very special, since it will feature the presentation of a Festschrift to our teacher and colleague Prof. Steven A. Kaufman, edited and written by his former students. We are delighted to host this celebration, and hope you will all join us to honor Prof. Kaufman for his devoted work with so many of you.

Finally, I want to offer my personal thanks to Drs. Nancy Erickson, Joel Allen, Christine Palmer, and David Turner who have worked so diligently on our behalf on the PSGS Alumni Executive Committee, and to Dr. John Kampen who represents the PSGS on the National Alumni Leadership Council. Your good work is deeply appreciated!

Annual SBL Luncheon & ETS Meeting

The Pines School of Graduate Studies alumni luncheon held each year at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) will on Sunday, November 19, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton Street, in downtown Boston. We will meet in the Commonwealth Room. 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 2017 are also invited in appreciation as guests of the College-Institute. For others, the cost is \$57 per person.

For more details and to make a reservation, contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or sgoldfarb@huc.edu. To make a donation to the PSGS, go to <https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad>.

In addition to the SBL luncheon, we have reserved a room for us to meet during The Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. We will gather in room 553A at the Rhode Island Conference Center on Thursday evening, November 16, around 9:15 PM, immediately following the ETS banquet. Cookies and coffee will be served. For more information, contact Dr. Nancy Erickson, President of the PSGS Alumni Association, at erickson.nancy@gmail.com.

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



Sheraton Boston Hotel