



Yearbooks and Newsletters

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Spring 2002

## The Touro Connection Number One

Touro College Office of Alumni Affairs

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# THE TOURO CONNECTION

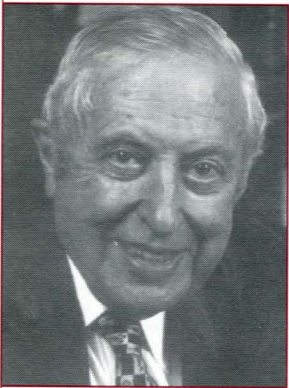
The Alumni Newsletter of the Lander Colleges

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### 4 Questions for Dr. Bernard Lander

As one of the nation's longest-serving University Presidents and Jewish leaders, what do you see as the direction of higher learning in the Jewish community?

The American Jewish community is bifurcated by two contradictory vortices — centrifugal and centripetal. While the Jewish community is beset by increasing intermarriages, assimilation and secularization, the number of religiously committed Jews is dramatically increasing. Consequently, the number of young men and women committed to the academic programs which Touro espouses is also increasing each year. I believe, therefore, that Touro and similar institutions of Jewish and general higher learning have a very promising future.



**Touro College is now entering its fourth decade.  
Where do you see it heading?**

The original vision of Touro was the establishment of a national and international institution of high quality both in Jewish and general studies. The implementation of this vision is being realized. Touro is already binational and international. As our base in New York broadens and strengthens, our ability to reach unreached Jewish communities in other parts of the United States and abroad will increase. I foresee Touro Colleges soon being developed in other major Jewish communities in the United States, as well as the birth of a European Jewish university associated with Touro and deeply engaged within the Jewish community.

**What role can the Alumni play in this growth?**

As in most American colleges and universities, the alumni should play vital roles in two major areas: fundraising and public relations, which of course includes image building. As committed benefactors of most American institutions of higher learning, alumni are the major contributors to their endowments, thus giving them stability and the ability to grow, appoint faculties of renown and conduct research of significance. Touro alumni should play the same roles.

*Continued on page 2*

## AN ALUMNI FIRST

### Touro Awards Fischberger '91 Honorary Doctorate



Michael Fischberger '91 is the first alumnus to be awarded an honorary doctorate from Touro College.

Recognized for his significant leadership in telecommunications and in the Jewish community, Michael is Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Operations at IDT Corporation in Newark, NJ.

The citation on his investiture as Doctor of Humane Letters-honoris causa, presented at a special academic convocation at the New York Hilton in November, reads in part:

"The need to master an ever-changing technologically driven world, and to remain on the cutting edge in a highly competitive global market has impelled Michael Fischberger to demonstrate outstanding leadership, intelligence, adaptability and resourcefulness.

"A graduate of Touro College in Judaic Studies, he is well steeped in traditional values of Jewish life and learning and in his commitment to Eretz Yisroel, family and community.

"The proud son of a pioneer in Jewish formal and informal education, Michael is a prime force in the preservation of the Jewish presence in Hebron. He has established a wonderful family with his wife Elana and their children.

"The Guiding Hand that led Michael Fischberger from a Judaic Studies major to a major corporate leader assures all of us that his talents will continue to be used for the betterment of society and Klal Yisroel."

## New Dean: Role Model for Women

President Lander has announced the appointment of Devorah Ehrlich as second Dean of the Women's Division-Manhattan, succeeding Rebbetzin Dr. Sarah Freifeld.

Dean Ehrlich has distinguished herself both academically and professionally. After graduating with honors from Queens College with majors in accounting and history, she quickly advanced as a CPA within the noted firm of Hecht and Co., before leaving to study at New York University Law

*Continued on page 4*

## THE TOURO UNIVERSE OFFERS Programs for Professional Growth

Touro College has developed graduate and professional degree programs locally, nationally, and internationally that provide unique opportunities to Alumni for personal and career advancement. For additional information, visit our Web Page at [www.touro.edu](http://www.touro.edu).

### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY:

Dr. Anthony J. Polemeni, Dean, (212) 463-0400 Ext. 777, 431 : Master of Science (MS) in Special Education contact: Dr. Ronald Lehrer; MS in School Administration and Supervision, Dr. Daniel Miller; Master of Arts in School Psychology , Dr. Mel Imas; Certificate Programs (CP) with the New York City Board of Education: CP in Administration, Dr. Miller; CP in Bilingual Bicultural Services, Dr. Boris Gindis.

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES** - Dr. Joseph Weisberg, Dean; Prof. Stephen Dougherty, Associate Dean of Administration, (631) 665-1600 Ext. 255: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Sciences/Physician Assistant , NYC: Dr. Nadja Graff; Bayshore: Dr. Joseph Tommasino; Master of Science (MS) in Speech Language Therapy, Prof. Hindy Lubinsky, (718) 252-7800 Ext. 277; MS in Biomedical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine (with the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology), Dr. Gerald Barry; MS in Clinical Engineering, Dr. Morris Benjaminson; MS in Forensic Examination, Dr. Leonard Goldstein; BS in Health Sciences/ MS in Occupational Therapy, Dr. Anthony Hollander; Bachelor of Professional Studies in Health Sciences/ MS in Oriental Medicine or Acupuncture, Prof. Kevin Ergil; BS in Health Sciences/ MS in Physical Therapy, Dr. Joseph Weisberg; MS in Public Health, Dr. Weisberg; Advanced Master of Science (AMS) in Orthopedic Physical Therapy, Dr. Hollander; AMS in Early Intervention Gerontology, Prof. Fran Corio.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES** - Dr. Michael Shmidman, Dean; Dr. Moshe Sherman, Associate Dean; (212) 213-2230 Ext. 103: Master of Arts in Jewish Studies.

**GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAM** - Dr. Barry M. Bressler, Dean; Prof. Stanley Kantor, Assistant Director; (212) 463-0400 Ext. 681; Master of Science in International Business Finance

**TOURO LAW SCHOOL** - Howard A. Glickstein, Dean; (631) 421-2244 Ext. 312, 313: Juris Doctor (JD); Master of Professional Studies in Law (for non-lawyers); Master of Laws ( for foreign law school graduates); Dual Degree Programs: JD/Master of Arts in Jewish Studies; JD/Master of Business Administration (Dowling College, Long Island University at CW.Post); JD/Master of Public Administration (Long Island University at CW.Post); JD/Master of Social Work (SUNY at Stony Brook).

**TOURO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**, Vallejo, California - Dr. Bernard Zeligler, Dean; (707) 638-5200: Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES** - Jerusalem, Israel - Dr. Carmi Horowitz, Associate Dean; (02) 679-6666: Master of Arts in Jewish Studies.

**TOURO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL**, Los Alamitos, California - Dr. Yoram Neumann, Provost and Dean; (714) 816-0366: Distance Learning Programs: Master of Science (MS) in Health Sciences, MS in Information Technology Management; Master of Business Administration; Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Sciences, PhD in Business Administration.



ON SEVEN ACRES IN KEW GARDENS HILLS, QUEENS you will discover the new Lander College for Men and its affiliated Beis Medrash L'Talmud. The rigorous curriculum is influenced by the Oxford Tutorial Method. In contrast to a stark dormitory setting, students live and learn in handsome townhouse apartments.

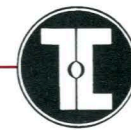
## 4 Questions for Dr. Bernard Lander

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Alumni leaders should provide policy guidance and philanthropic support, and encourage broader financial support from friends of the College. This helps to build an institution of prestige, which attracts students of quality and character.

### What message do you want to convey to the thousands of Touro College alumni in the U.S. and around the world?

Basic to Judaism are the moral and practical consequences of *Hakoras Hatov* and appreciation of the institution which has helped you at a critical and crucial period of your life to build a foundation for your successful pursuit of economic, professional and Jewish achievement. A large proportion of our graduates has been assisted by scholarship support. All of our graduates have been nurtured in their preparation for adult life. Alumni have a responsibility to fulfill their moral obligations and to enable many more thousands of students to receive academic preparation so that they, too, may become leaders of the Jewish and general communities.



## THE TOURO CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Alumni Association  
Lander Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences

### Office of Resource Development

Alan Mond, Vice President

### Office of Alumni Affairs

Esther Ingber, Director

## DEAR TOURO GRADUATE: We Need Your Ideas and Service

As a graduate of Touro College, you already possess the special gift of a Touro education, an experience that no doubt has in some special way transformed your life and continues to affect the lives of family, friends, and associates. The Alumni Association of Touro College—your association—wants, indeed needs, your positive connection with the College.



As Director of Alumni Affairs, I look forward to meeting with you. The Office of Alumni Affairs is located at our Manhattan Campus: 27-33 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010 •

(212) 463-0400 Ext.785. Email: [ingbere@touro.edu](mailto:ingbere@touro.edu).

We are reorganizing our Alumni Association and look forward to your assistance. Your ideas and service will strengthen our mission. We aim to make the Alumni Association an exciting and effective organization, responsive to its members and the College. I welcome and anticipate your cooperation.

Please inform us of a change of address as well as news and updates of your professional, personal or community activities. Take a moment to look at our web page at <http://www.touro.edu/alumni> for current events, activities, career opportunities, and alumni profiles. Let's connect.

*Esther Ingber*

## AlumNotes

**Mark Goldstein** '79 is an attorney in Brooklyn, specializing in personal injury and

medical practice. He and his wife Rena are parents of four... **Cynthia Darrison** '80 has her master's in labor studies and is currently in charge of the financial campaign 2002 for Elliot Spitzer... **Rachel Yehuda** '80 graduated medical school and now heads the Trauma Stress Clinic at Mt. Sinai Hospital... **Elchanan Finestone** '99 admitted to University of Chicago and New York University Schools of Law... **Howard Roth** '81 is a cosmetic dentist on Long Island... **Alan Bindiger** '75 is a physician in California... **Alan Cabelly** '77 is an attorney living in West Hempstead... **Lisa Goldstein** '80 resides in Eretz Yisroel, mother of ten... **Harry Schnall** '77 lives in Holliswood and has his medical practice in Forest Hills... **Hindi Mermelstein** '79 is a physician at Long Island Jewish Medical Center... **Elon Zapinsky** '75 resides in Westchester and works as a CPA... **Michael Parker** '75 is in real estate and development, and has relocated with his family to Englewood, New Jersey... **Harvey Fialkoff** '75, who received his Ph.D. in public planning, is living in Israel and is working for the Ministry of Housing... **Shulamit Kon** '82 is a pediatrician in Manhattan... **Jerome Menkin** '77 and **Isaac Dayan** '77 are "gems of gentlemen" working in the diamond district... **Shrage Goldschmidt** '96 valedictorian received his JD degree from Columbia University, where he was a Stone Scholar and a Law Review editor. He is an associate at Debevoise Plimpton and Associates... **David Greenfield** '98, Georgetown Law Center graduate, is assistant to Assemblyman Dov Hikind succeeding **Simcha Felder** '81, who has been elected to the New York City Council and is teaching at Brooklyn College... **Dvora Shmulewitz** '97 is a doctoral fellow in biology at Rockefeller University... **Aharon Friedman** '96, who graduated from Harvard Law School, lives in Israel where he is a Law Clerk for Israel Supreme Court Justice Tova Strasberg-Cohen... **Hindy Sherman** '99 is studying occupational therapy at Columbia University... **Susan Stern** from '86, former Director of LAS Alumni, gets a Mazel Tov and best wishes upon her marriage to Simcha Schnerb... Among the 2001 graduates: **Yaakov Friedman**, valedictorian, was accepted to Colum-



**ALUMNI FOCUS GROUPS** meet periodically with Dean of Students **Robert Goldschmidt**, right: Participants in this session are from left, **Steven Schwartz**, '80, CPA, recent Chief Financial Officer, New York Skyline Multimedia Entertainment; **Chaim Mozes** '84, Ph.D. NYU, Associate Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Business; and **Joel Kransnow** '83, JD Columbia, Of Counsel, Dewey Ballantine.

bia, Cornell and Georgetown Law Schools... **Chaim Gofman**, who spent three years in Jewish Outreach in Vilna, is now enrolled in the University of New Jersey College of Medicine... **Michael Neiman**, a Talmudic scholar from Lakewood, is attending New York University School of Dentistry... **Rabbi Yisroel Grossberg** has been appointed principal of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn.

By staying in touch with us you will receive correspondence, our newsletter, details on employment opportunities, job and career fairs, networking channels, and announcements of interesting lectures and seminars. The purpose of AlumNotes is to inform you of your fellow graduates' personal and professional achievements, as well as family news, including information on marriages, births, simchas and bereavements.

We want to hear from you; please complete and return this form.

### For AlumNotes

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Program \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ name change if applicable

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel no. \_\_\_\_\_ Work no. \_\_\_\_\_

### HIGHLIGHTS for inclusion in THE TOURO CONNECTION Newsletter:

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Please send to: Esther Ingber, Director of Alumni Affairs, Touro College  
27-33 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010

# New Dean: Role Model for Women



Continued from page 1

School. Subsequently, she enjoyed a successful career as an associate at the law firm of Weil, Gotshal, and Manges, and co-authored *Consumers' Report - Guide to Income Tax Preparation*. She is also a graduate of Torah Academy for Girls and Machon Sara Schneier (BJJ).

Previously a visiting instructor at Montclair State University, she joined Touro College as an associate professor, where she has been teaching tax law and accounting for eleven years. She and her husband, Rabbi Dr. Richard Ehrlich, the principal of Jewish Foundation School in Staten Island, are raising five daughters in Passaic, N. J., where she is treasurer and an active member of the Chevra Kadisha.

In an interview with *The Connection*, Dean Ehrlich responded to these questions:

## Q. What is your vision for the Women's School?

A. My vision... is to create a collegiate environment where young Jewish women can grow personally, academically, and

religiously. My goal is to provide our students with master teachers who are at the cutting edge of their fields. At the same time, I hope to continue the school's tradition of educating our students in a warm, caring environment where professors develop mentoring relationships with each student.

## Q. What is your philosophy of teaching?

A. I believe in challenging my students so that they will be able to achieve their career and educational goals. I also strive to develop close personal relationships with them and enjoy sharing in their personal and professional success.

## Q. Do you see yourself as a role model for our women students?

A. I think I can serve as a role model for the Touro women in two areas. The obvious way is that I established a career for myself as an attorney in one of the premier law firms in Manhattan without compromising my religious principles or observance. For example, not only was I the only woman in the firm who wore a sheitl, but every afternoon I set aside time and closed the door to my office to daven mincha.

On a more subtle level, my career reflects the flexibility that women in general and Orthodox women in particular must juggle... different demands. My initial career was as an accountant in the accounting firm of Hecht & Co., and when I wanted to further challenge myself I returned to study law. Even though I loved the practice of law, I always put my family as my first priority and when the demands of my career unduly interfered with my family life, I left the practice of law. However, even when family demands limit career choices, they do not have to terminate them. {Thus} I entered academia, combining my previous professions in a more flexible environment. This allowed me to increase my professional responsibilities and take on the position of dean.

## MIDDLE STATES SELF STUDY NEEDS ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

In March, Touro College will launch a major institutional self-study for reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The visit is scheduled for Spring 2004.

Dean of Students Robert Goldschmidt, chairing the college's self-study steering committee for the third consecutive time, said "All constituencies of the college-faculty, administration, students, alumni, and trustees - will be involved in the process. Our goal is to produce a study that can serve as a planning document for Touro for the next decade."

This spring, alumni will be asked to respond to a survey critically examining their academic and co-curricular experiences, and the benefits and value of a Touro education. An alumni representative will this spring be appointed to the steering committee.



TOURO COLLEGE  
Office of Alumni Affairs  
27-33 West 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010

Address Correction Requested

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American Jewry: In the 21st Century  
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