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Department Focus Volume 1 Issue 1

Lander College for Men

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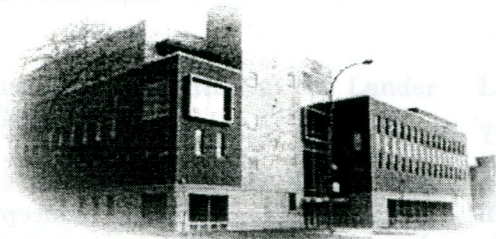


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Lander College For Men

Department Focus

Volume 1, Issue 1 Spring, 2005

A Few Words of Introduction...

I am pleased to introduce a new Lander College for Men publication, *Department Focus*. The College is justifiably proud of the many activities undertaken by our departments, including research, new course offerings, new appointments,

guest lectures, and student club programs. The aim of this newsletter is to gather all these developments together in a single publication, so that the entire campus community – and beyond – is kept fully informed. We expect to publish *De-*

partment Focus on a regular basis, and welcome your comments.

Dr. Moshe Sokol
Dean

Business

New Faculty

Dr. Sheldon Friedman, Associate Professor of Management, joined the faculty in September of 2004. Prior to his arrival, Dr. Friedman was a full time faculty member at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Friedman received his Ph.D. from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and holds an MBA and an MA in Organizational Behavior and Accounting. Dr. Friedman resides in Connecticut with his wife, an ESL teacher. He has two grown children and enjoys oil painting and sculpting.

The World of Private Equity

On March 30th we hosted a guest lecturer, David Ratzker, VP from Cornell Capital Partners who discussed private equity financing, the relevance of finance courses in one's future finance career, and the transition from school to work.

The Lander Investment Club

The *Lander Investment Club* has expanded to over twenty members this past fall semester. Students have been attracted by the hands-on and management experience of partaking in a quasi-investment corporation. Look for the club's investment results in the next edition of *The Lander Chronicle*.

Lander College Career Seminar Series

We have just completed a fascinating and useful seminar in career fulfillment. The series included sessions regarding resume writing, interviewing techniques, job search strategies, networking, and many other pragmatic issues. Students were excited by the action-oriented advice by notable campus figures including Dr. Kenneth Bigel, Advisor Tuvia Mozorosky, Professor William Schneck, and Dr. Ira Teich.

Research

Dr. Ira Teich is analyzing the psychological makeup of consumers who are drawn to purchase the Toyota Prius/Honda Insight versus the Honda Accord/Civic Toyota Highlander/Lexus Rx400h hybrid automobiles. He is also investigating the national culture of American, German and Japanese automobile manufacturers, which themselves are heavily invested in a particular hybrid engine technology. Dr. Teich has been invited to lecture at the upcoming American Society of Chemical Engineers conference about product development and management.

Computer Science

New Adjunct Appointment

Professor Jay Kitainik joined our Computer Science Faculty. Professor Kitainik did advanced graduate work at Polytechnic University, and has twenty plus years experience at NBC, Citibank and others developing and managing ATM design and roll-out, programming teams and financial projects.

New Courses

Special Topics – MCO451 - Project Design, Development and Analysis – Students learn in both formal and informal seminar style brainstorming sessions the managerial, administrative, design and implementa-

tion skills involved in creating a multi-tier application. Topics include database design and implementation, graphical user interfaces, solving intractable problems (NP) with heuristic algorithms, group development and communication and specification definitions.

Student Activities

The LCM Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery is acquiring two robotics kits. These robotic systems are configurable and contain motors, electronic eyes and support locomotion. In addition they are capable of being programmed in the Java programming language. This will provide stu-

dents with valuable hands-on experience is applying concepts learned in their lectures in a creative, entertaining, and constructive environment.

Guest Lectures

Dr. Michael Samet, CEO of Referral Technology, Inc. delivered a lecture entitled "E-Smarts 101: Launching, Promoting & Managing an E-Business". Dr. Samet is a human factors scientist, applied technologist and consumer psychologist, who successfully launched and managed many websites, including PriceQuotes.com and OnlyOnSale.com.

Mathematics

New Appointment

Professor Robert Finkelman, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries with over fifteen years of senior corporate experience and another six years of independent consulting,

has joined the Lander College for Men faculty to teach Math for Compound Interest. He writes, "In addition to a rigorous understanding of the curriculum, I attempt to impart to my students a feel for how the material they are learning relates

to what actuaries do in the business world." He also adds, "I feel privileged to be teaching students who in addition to being bright academically exhibit the highest moral character."

Natural Sciences

New Course & Professor

The Biology Department has introduced a new course this semester entitled Current Topics in Medical Ethics taught by Rabbi Dr. Howard Apfel, a pediatric cardiologist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and rebbe at Mesivta of North Jersey. The course includes real life cases, some of which Dr. Apfel personally encountered, and their ethical and halachic analysis. Issues covered in the course include cloning, organ donation, euthanasia and definition of death.

The Lander Biological Society

The Lander Biological Society held its first elections and voted D. Yitzchak Goldstein as the new president. We acknowledge the work of the founding president, Martin Leybovitch, and the members of his administration, through whose dedication and efforts the Lander Biological Society was established. A significant recent accomplishment of the Lander Biological Society was the creation of a website. It provides essential resources for science classes given at the Lander College for Men.

Student Research

Several students who performed research during the summer of 2004 delivered talks to the Lander Biological Society. They included Yoni Yaari, who worked with Dr. Apfel in pediatric cardiology at Columbia; D. Yitzchak Goldstein, who worked at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and discussed the use of fluorescent in situ hybridization as a diagnostic tool in oncological research; and Avi Rosenberg and Joshua Jackson, who worked with Dr. Danishefsky on subcloning of

the gene for HFREP at the Lander College for Men.

Lectures

The Lander College for Men Biology Society hosted a Lecture by Rabbi Dr. Edward Reichman on "Is a

Stem Cell Just a "Stam" Cell? Stem Cell Research in Halacha." Dr. Reichman is an Ass't Professor of Emergency Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center.

Political Science

New Faculty

The Political Science Department of the Lander College for Men has been augmented over the past two years by the addition of two new adjunct professors: Dr. Joe Foudy joined us in 2003 and Dr. Oren Levin-Waldman came aboard this spring semester.

Professor Levin-Waldman is teaching two courses this semester in the subfield of American Government: The Presidency, and The Supreme Court and the Constitution. Before joining us, Dr. Levin-Waldman held a chaired professorship at the *Institute of Urban Research and Public Policy*, New Jersey City University; was a Resident Scholar at The Jerome Levy Economics Institute; and *Visiting Associate Professor* in the Department of Political Studies, Bard College. An expert in public policy, he serves as the Series Editor of "Contemporary Public Policy Issues" published by M.E. Sharpe Publishers.

Dr. Levin-Waldman is also a prolific writer, who has written four books on public policy: *The Political Economy of the Living Wage: A Study of Four Cities* (M.E. Sharpe, 2005); *The Case of the Minimum Wage: Competing Policy Models* (State University of New York Press, 2001); *Reconceiving Liberalism: Dilemmas of Contemporary Liberal Public Policy* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1996); and *Plant Closure, Regulation and Liberalism: The Limits to Liberal Public Philosophy* (University Press of Amer-

ica, 1992). His presence adds significantly to the department's strengths in American government and public policy fields.

Professor Levin-Waldman's current research and writing include three 5000 word pieces for the *International Encyclopedia of Public Policy* to be published by Routledge. The three pieces are: Minimum Wage/Living Wage; Unemployment Compensation; and Inequality/Distribution of Income and Power. He plans to study the wage contour effects of minimum wage increases and is preparing a grant proposal to the Russell Sage Foundation for funding. A personable and interesting man, Professor Levin-Waldman's classes are already drawing favorable reactions from students.

Dr. Joe Foudy received his Ph.D. in 2004 from Cornell University, which has one of the nation's leading departments of political science. His expertise in international relations, comparative politics, and international political economy enhances the department's course offerings in these areas. Professor Foudy already has considerable teaching experience, having taught at New York University and Hunter College, CUNY. An able instructor, Professor Foudy's courses earn rave reviews all over the metropolitan area.

Research

Dr. Ross Zucker, the department chair at Lander College for Men, was invited to contribute a chapter

for a volume, entitled *Theories of Economic and Social Justice*, edited by A.J. van der Walt, an internationally recognized South African legal scholar in the areas of constitutional law and property law. In connection with the South African book project, Professor Zucker has been invited to speak about work on the theory of property at the University of Stellenbosh. Professor Richard Caputo of Yeshiva University has organized a panel discussion about Professor Zucker's 2001 book, *Democratic Distributive Justice*, at an international conference this March in New York City, where Dr. Zucker presented a paper analyzing and comparing three new political theories.

Student Activities & Guest Lectures

Students in the political science society are doing their part to enhance the intellectual life of the college, by editing the college academic journal: *The State of Things*. Several political science majors have made applications for summer internships and they hope to be doing productive work in Washington, DC over the summer. Some already have interviews scheduled for next week. The department hopes that their interest in political science will be cemented by their experience in Washington and that their resumes will also be improved.

Back in December the Political Science Department organized a presentation by Dr. Steven Pressman on editing an academic journal. Press-

man, the Co-Editor of a distinguished journal, *The Review of Political Economy*, gave an interesting and well-attended talk.

This spring the Department intends to bring to the LCM campus admissions officers from Schools of Public and International Affairs in order to

acquaint students with the education and professional opportunities available in the political field.

Psychology

During the past year, the Lander College for Men Psychology Department has developed several initiatives designed to enhance the academic experience of our undergraduate majors.

Student Research & Field-Based Experience

First, in recognition that students desiring to pursue a graduate career in psychology require field-based and/or research experience, the department developed opportunities in both these areas. Following negotiations with two human service organizations, including Ohel/Bes Ezra and the Tova program, senior level internships were launched during the spring semester of 2005. For students desiring an experience working with a developmentally disabled population, weekly opportunities were initiated at the outset of the current semester. Similarly, for students interested in working with Jewish teens at risk, a mentoring program,

jointly supervised by LCM faculty and the Tova program, was recently initiated with several of the local yeshivot within the Queens community. Research/internship opportunities in the areas of neuropsychology and brain injury rehabilitation are presently anticipated for the summer and fall of 2005.

Laboratory Facilities

The administration of the College and the department are currently designing and equipping a new psychology laboratory. In addition to providing students with general exposure to experimental issues in psychology, the laboratory will highlight two contemporary areas, human physiological psychology and cognitive science. In addition, the availability of a state of the art laboratory on campus will provide advanced students with the opportunity to participate in on-campus research.

Faculty Research

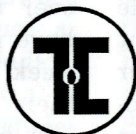
Dr. Richard Waxman, chairperson

of the Department of Psychology at Lander College for Men, has for several years collaborated with several psychology faculty members of the CUNY graduate center. Areas of research include applications of implicit learning in brain injury rehabilitation, and perceptual organization in the aging and neurologically compromised brain. Several research articles have recently been submitted for publication, and a pilot study designed as the basis for NIMH funding is in progress.

Mental Health Lectures

The Lander College for Men Psychology Department hosted its first Saturday Night Winter Public Lecture series on Mental Health in the Orthodox Community. Guest lecturers included Rabbi Abraham Twerski, MD on "Substance Abuse: The Problem is Ours"; Dr. Norman Blumenthal on "Teens at Risk: Prevention & Response" and Dr. Meir Winkler on "Why Marriage Made in Heaven Sometimes Fail on Earth."

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