FOR ALL INSPIRED BY TRADITION TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE

“Above all, we take pride in the education of our children.”
—Josephus

A pioneer and trailblazer, the Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University has long established itself as one of the premier Jewish Studies programs in the world.

One of the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive programs of its kind, the Borns Jewish Studies Program ignites a passion in students that lasts a lifetime. Inspired by a class, or a professor, or a study abroad experience, our students yearn to make a difference in the world and in their Jewish communities. From our world-renowned faculty, they gain deep knowledge of the Jewish world—and the skills to question and employ what they have learned. Our more than 850 alumni have gone on to become rabbis and cantors, leaders in Jewish community organizations, and teachers and university faculty. They also hold countless other vital roles in government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations.

Since its founding more than 40 years ago, the Borns Jewish Studies Program has attained international stature. Yet there is still much to accomplish. More than ever in these unpredictable times, we need the thoughtful leadership, wise scholarship, and diverse perspectives of those who study and teach in the Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University. With the launch of For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign, together we will ensure that the Borns Jewish Studies Program’s singular purpose and strengths continue to educate and nurture future generations of leaders in Jewish communities and beyond.
Now nearing its fifth decade of existence, the Borns Jewish Studies Program at IU has flourished because of our close and enduring connections with students, alumni, and friends. It has been one of my life’s privileges to have participated in the program’s development from the very beginning and to remain active in it to this day.”

— Alvin H. Rosenfeld
Professor of Jewish Studies and English, Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies, and Director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

A recent study found that participating in Jewish life and learning profoundly affected Jewish students. After college, they were much more likely to observe Jewish holidays and practices, feel connected to Israel and the Jewish people, have Jewish friends and partners, and believe that it is important to raise children Jewish. The impact was especially significant for Jewish children of intermarriage.

“Millennial Children of Intermarriage: Touchpoints and Trajectories of Jewish Engagement”
Theodore Sasson, Leonard Saxe, Fenn Cliecht, Michelle Stein, Shlomo Hecht, and Graham Wright
Maurice & Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University

From its beginning, the Borns Jewish Studies Program has been rooted in Indiana University’s strengths in the liberal arts. Whether studying ancient Judaism, the Hebrew Bible, Jewish communities in medieval Spain, the Holocaust, modern antisemitism, Israeli society, Jewish culture in the United States, or many other fields within the humanities, the arts, and the social sciences, our students—Jews and non-Jews—acquire profound and lasting insights into Jewish life and thought.

Add our strong language curriculum in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as a one-of-a-kind program in Jewish Sacred Music, and we provide students with the language skills and music training to prepare them for careers as cantors, scholars, and other professionals.

Then, consider the less tangible qualities unique to Jewish Studies at IU. Those qualities foster a lively center of learning, creating a supportive community where faculty and staff inspire students to discover and explore their passions. Our students and faculty have opportunities to attend a wealth of relevant workshops, lectures, discussions, films, plays, and musical performances. Our faculty and staff become mentors as well as teachers, and our vibrant Jewish student associations—undergraduate and graduate—enable students to connect with those who share their interests.

We already have one of the top Jewish Studies programs in the country. Now we look ahead. With your help, we will secure our place in the future as a world center for Jewish learning.

FOR ALL WHO SET THEIR SIGHTS HIGH
GOAL #1: ENSURE OUR FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Our most critical need today is to build a strong foundation for the future by growing the Borns Jewish Studies Program’s general endowment. Only with a robust general endowment can we maintain the extraordinary richness of our program and continue to produce dynamic leaders for the Jewish community and beyond. A strong endowment is our “venture capital.” With it, we can support exciting new initiatives in the future.

SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A more substantial and competitive general endowment is a powerful, flexible tool for enhancing our scholarship, supporting innovative courses, enabling scholarly exchanges, and increasing the quality—and impact—of our work.

FOR ALL WHO VALUE JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING

IT STARTS WITH YOU

These gifts provide general support in a timely way when and where it is most needed.
“I chose to attend Indiana University because of the Jewish Studies program—the large number of majors, the breadth and prestige of the Jewish Studies faculty, and the funding available to attract top students.”


GOAL #2: ENABLE ALL PROMISING STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AT IU

Expanding undergraduate student scholarship support is essential for us to attract the best students from across the country. We must do all we can to ensure that a liberal arts education—with its lifelong value—is affordable and attainable.

Although IU’s Jewish Studies Program is a model for other universities, the number of Jewish Studies programs across the country has grown—and so has competition for top students. Your investment in scholarships will enable us to continue to attract exciting students who are motivated to make a difference.

THE POWER OF SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

In 2013 IU alumna Emily Walsh Fox, a recipient of the Borns Scholarship who graduated with a certificate in Jewish Studies, gave an inspiring JDOV talk (the Jewish version of a TED talk) about her vision for Jewish education and the role of significant personal relationships in developing a strong Jewish identity in young people. Today, she is a teacher and summer camp director at the Early Childhood Learning Center at Temple Israel of the City of New York, where she puts her vision into action, nurturing a strong Jewish identity in children.

Lindsey Mintz (BA in Jewish Studies, 1998), Executive Director of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council (center) and Stacy Rudd (Certificate in Jewish Studies, 2005), Director of Academic Affairs at the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest (right) talk with a Jewish Studies student at Jewish Studies Career Night.
It’s no surprise that many of our graduates have gone on to other top institutions. We have trained and continue to train many of the leaders in the field of Jewish Studies in North America.

PREPARING FUTURE JEWISH SCHOLARS
Devi Mays earned her IU doctorate in history and Jewish studies in 2013. With assistance from a JSP/Sephardic Studies Initiative Grant-in-Aid and the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Fellowship, she conducted research in Mexico, Turkey, France, and Israel for her dissertation. The thesis examined the responses of Sephardic immigrants in Turkey and Mexico to state efforts to control them. In addition to receiving funding to support her research, Mays found strong collegial support through the program’s vibrant Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association. Today, she is on the faculty in Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

IU’s Jewish Studies Program has a wider array of disciplines represented among our graduate students than most other universities. We offer a master’s degree and a doctoral minor in Jewish Studies. Additional funding for graduate fellowships will enable us to work with other departments and disciplines to bring in strong graduate students whose primary focus is Jewish Studies.

“The Borns Jewish Studies Program fosters an uncommon culture of partnership among graduate students. The thriving Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association provided monthly paper readings, an annual graduate conference, and monthly faculty-graduate workshops. I had access to some of the top professors in Jewish Studies while gaining rare professional experiences.”

—Matthew Brittingham (MA in Jewish Studies, 2014),
Doctoral Student, Emory University

Graduate fellowships enable us to attract the most promising scholars, who in turn contribute to the exciting momentum in IU’s Jewish Studies Program. From arranging lectures with noted keynote speakers, to organizing major international conferences, our graduate students are adding significantly to our scholarship and learning.
An endowment to support visiting professorships will enable us to invite bright, emerging scholars annually for semester-long or yearlong residencies. Their presence will enrich our scholarship and teaching, while enhancing their skills as Jewish Studies faculty.

Recently, postdoctoral fellow Nathan Mastnjak, a 2015 University of Chicago PhD, reinvigorated our Biblical Hebrew program, teaching first-year Biblical Hebrew for the first time in many years.

An endowment to support a new chair in Hebrew Bible will enable the program to secure a leading international scholar in a key area of Jewish Studies that interests many of our students.

RAISING THE BAR

As we look to the future, your support will provide a permanent source of funding to attract a strong core of promising visiting professors who will add to our depth while they benefit from the extraordinary richness of the Borns Jewish Studies Program.

“Our faculty hail from six countries and three continents, and our students come from across the USA and Europe, all drawn to our world-leading program in Jewish Studies. As the program’s director, I am charged with looking to the future. It is my privilege to work toward sustaining and strengthening this remarkable group of scholars and teachers.”

— Mark Roseman, Director, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program; Pat M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies; Professor, Department of History; Adjunct Professor, Department of German
GOAL #4: PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP AND FOSTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING WORLD JEWRY

One of the most vital elements of our mission today is to develop centers of leadership and dialogue that respond to the pressing questions confronting the Jewish world in the twenty-first century.

To this end, the Borns Jewish Studies Program will broaden, deepen, and strengthen Indiana University’s ties with Israeli scholars, writers, and artists, creating a new Center for Cultural Exchange with Israel. Building on IU’s close ties with institutions of higher learning in Israel, the center will create a place where meaningful conversations and cultural exchanges with Israeli scholars are strengthened and where new knowledge can flourish. Benefitting from the strength of IU Press, the center will also create a program—unique in the United States—to translate and publish Israeli scholarship not currently available in English.

In addition, we seek to support the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and to secure its position as a center for monitoring, analyzing, and disseminating knowledge about global threats to Jewish communities and Jewish life.

Your support will help the Borns Jewish Studies Program respond to these vital issues and promote and enhance the internationally recognized research and dialogue here at IU.

“At the core of Indiana University is the deepest and most serious search for knowledge and understanding by our students and faculty—no matter where these explorations take them. We simply cannot pursue our core missions of creating new knowledge and of passing on and preserving existing knowledge without tolerance.”

—Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie, upon receiving the Anti-Defamation League Man of Achievement Award in Indiana.

“IT STARTS WITH YOU

FOR ALL IN SEARCH OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Center for Cultural Exchange with Israel
Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

FOR ALL GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

In Search of Global Understanding

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Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says:
It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world.

_Pirke Avot 1:17_

Your support gives us the opportunity to dream big. Together we will shape the Borns Jewish Studies Program at IU for generations to come.

_**For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign**_

This campaign is for all who value the education of bright and compassionate young people. These young men and women understand the value of Jewish learning and go on to lead organizations and communities worldwide. With your support, they will change lives and shape attitudes about Jewish life and culture for generations to come.