The Jerusalem Project

Deborah Bing '94, did excellent, insightful work in Professor Jay Rothman's class on "International Conflict Management: The Israeli-Palestinian Case" last fall. Impressed by her classroom contributions, and knowing that she had lived in Israel for a year and speaks Hebrew, Rothman asked her to work with him in Israel on The Jerusalem Project, a practical application of his research on conflict resolution.

Based at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rothman and Bing laid the groundwork this summer for the project, in which a group of Palestinians and Israelis will jointly write policy papers proposing solutions to six sets of problems confronting the city's residents. Bing's assistantship was provided by the Haverford faculty research fund.

Project participants will use a problem-solving methodology developed over the last six years by Rothman, a visiting assistant professor of political science at Haverford and Bryn Mawr who directs the Conflict Resolution Program of the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The six areas the group will address are safety, access to and protection of holy sites, city infrastructure, economic development, social services, and education and culture. The Israelis and Palestinians will consider these issues in light of three scenarios - a politically divided Jerusalem and an economically divided Jerusalem.

Bing's responsibilities were to help develop the project, work on the proposal, conduct background research on the issues, and make contacts that could lead to a group of project participants. Part of her research involved meetings with members of the American Consulate, the Jerusalem Municipality, Palestinian and Israeli academics, and peace organizations in East and West Jerusalem.

She and Rothman recruited policymakers, activists and scholars as project participants and sought advice from others on developing the project. "Key people in the intellectual community gave us valuable ideas," Bing said.

One of their goals is to please people not only for their expertise but also for their willingness to work in good faith for the long term peace of Jerusalem without politicizing the effort. Rothman's methodology will allow them to brainstorm solutions to shared problems without committing themselves to a particular political future for the city. Their policy opinion papers will be made into a book.

Bing researched one of the introductory chapters of the book this summer, focusing on U.S. policy toward Jerusalem. She and Rothman are back at Haverford this fall, but will return to Israel in the spring to finalize the group and begin holding meetings. They hope to raise additional funds for the Jerusalem Project while they are in the United States.

Two months of talking to those at the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict has provided Bing with a more in-depth understanding of the problem. "The people that I encountered put me in touch with the human element of the conflict," she says. "I began to realize that this kind of exchange cannot be paralleled by what I read in books or hear on the news. People are what the conflict is all about, and its solutions will also be about people." 10

New East Asian Studies Major

Haverford and Bryn Mawr students can now choose to major in East Asian Studies, a rigorous program combining intensive language study, theory courses and a focus on either Chinese or Japanese culture. The proposal for the new major, which received faculty approval last spring, cited the rising popularity of Chinese and Japanese language study, high enrollments in courses related to East Asia, the United States' increasing economic ties with China and Japan, and a growing awareness of the historical and contemporary significance of those countries as reasons for instituting the major.

The program is jointly coordinated by Haverford and Bryn Mawr faculty and is available to students of both colleges. The East Asian studies faculty includes professors of Chinese, Japanese, history, music, religion, philosophy and political science.

Several aspects of the new major set it apart from those offered at most other institutions, says program director Matthew Mizenko. One is the language requirement. While similar majors at other colleges require only two years of language study, Haverford requires three years of either Chinese or Japanese, and will offer fourth-year Japanese for the first time this fall.

Another important distinction Mizenko says, is that students must take at least one course in the theory or methodology of a discipline that is related to the focus of their program. For instance, a student who concentrates on the politics of China must take a class in comparative politics, while someone focusing on Japan's economy must take micro and macro economics.

"Area studies are often criticized as lacking disciplinary rigor," Mizenko notes. "People learn a lot of facts about an area, but don't have a framework by which to study those facts and put them in perspective."

Students will be expected to attain a familiarity with both Chinese and Japanese cultures, while concentrating on a single region in advanced courses. A senior conference course will provide a sophisticated study of the problems associated with study of an "other" culture by people who are grounded in Western culture.

Mizenko also urges students to put their coursework in perspective by studying abroad in China or Japan. "Having observed returning students, and studied in Japan a year myself, I've discovered that there is a quantum leap in terms of language proficiency, as well as understanding of the society after a year of studying there."

Haverford has approved a number of excellent study abroad programs in East Asia, including International Christian University and Sophia University, both in Tokyo. Students can take advantage of active alumni groups in Japan and Hong Kong. "We've gotten a lot of support from our alumni in East Asia," Mizenko says. "I think they're pleased with what we're doing here."
Scenes from Serendipity

Each summer, the college is home to Serendipity Day Camp, where children ages six to thirteen enjoy swimming, field sports and games, arts and crafts and occasional field trips to places such as the zoo, nature center, children's theater and a Philadelphia Phillies game. Since Serendipity was started in 1963 by representatives of the Ardmore community and Haverford College, the camp has served as a strong link between the college and the surrounding communities.

The camp is staffed mostly by Haverford students. This year, 11 students were counselors. Barry Gilbert '91 was the director, and Nancy Kaufmann '93 was the assistant director.
Serve, Conserve, Preserve: Advice to the Class of '92

Weather worries dissipated along with the clouds on Sunday morning, May 17, as 270 members of the Class of '92 listened to advice from four honorary degree recipients, received their diplomas and then joined family and friends on Founder's Green for pictures and refreshments.

Honorary degrees were awarded to Thomas Friedman, chief diplomatic correspondent for The New York Times and author of From Beirut to Jerusalem; Robert Moses, author of the Algebra Project Transition Curriculum, principal trainer for the Project and former civil rights activist; F. Sherwood Rowland, co-discoverer of the ozone-destroying effect of chlorofluorocarbon gases released into the atmosphere; and Faye Wattleton, former president of the National Women's Political Caucus and a former civil rights activist.

Thomas Friedman discussed his early days working for United Press International before moving to The New York Times. He related several anecdotes from his years in Beirut and stressed that people will only take your work seriously "if you pass critical judgments when you feel they're required and also praise, when it's merited.

'I've spent my life covering one of the most sensitive, emotionally-laden stories of this century: the historical conflict between Jews and Arabs over Palestine. I've been called a self-hating Jew, an Israeli stooge, a Mosad agent, a CIA agent and a PLO agent... Yet, I have always had excellent Israeli and Palestinian sources," because both sides took his writing seriously, he said.

In contrast to Friedman's straightforward advice, Robert Moses spoke metaphorically. He referred to the Merrill Magnolia tree planted on the side of Union Building by the Class of '92 that morning and noted that author Toni Morrison once wrote that the civil rights workers who were registering black voters were "doing the walk of the trees.

"You stand up and come to get your degrees," he said. "Two hundred and seventy trees. A tree has to have a tap root to get nourishment. What's your tap root? How do you find nourishment? Think about the forest the tree has to live in. The trees assemble and the branches intermingle. How are you going to intermingle, as you move on? Think about how trees might walk.

"The civil rights movement is a walk of trees," Moses said. "It's got a long way to go and it's going to take some big, tall, strong people to do it. Your country has a long way to go on a lot of issues. And you need to do the walk of the trees.

According to F. Sherwood Rowland, people need to do the work of trees as well, regulating the environment by recycling water and stopping soil erosion. Instead, he said, "graduates have been told for generations to go out and conquer the world. Unfortunately, they have done so."

He urged his audience to face global environmental problems, rather than take the "wait and see" attitude that characterized the United States' response to the news that chlorofluorocarbons destroy the ozone layer. Rowland suggested that, like the indigenous peoples of the United States, the graduates should consider the effect of their actions seven generations into the future.

Faye Wattleton also discussed preservation, but of rights, rather than the environment. It is up to each member of the Class of '92, she said, to maintain "the capacity to chart our own destiny, the right to be left alone in our most private decisions by our government, the right to speak our views as we see fit... the right to hope that our government will not punish us if our choices and our personal decisions are different from those who hold power over us.

"Please," she concluded, "accept the burden and the honor of keeping liberty alive, so that you will preserve it for all future generations."

President Kessinger's closing remarks encompassed both domestic and global concerns. "Some feel that, since we've won the Cold War, it is time for the United States to disengage with the rest of the world and devote its energy and resources to solving the very great problems in our own society," Kessinger said. That position, he charged, "is historically questionable, analytically untenable and conceptually dangerous.

"It is impossible to draw a distinction between a tank in Tiananmen Square and a tank in the streets of Los Angeles," Kessinger continued, "or a distinction between a State Department travel advisory to Americans to avoid Libya and notices issued by Asian governments warning travelers to avoid the airports in the major cities of California."

He told the class to keep "the connection of things" in mind. In saying goodbye to the young men and women whose first year at Haverford coincided with his first year as president, Kessinger spoke in Indonesian, as he had when he initially addressed them four years ago. "Sampai ketemu lagi. Until we meet again."
Three Professors Named to Endowed Chairs
by Jennifer Nober '93

Beginning this academic year, three professors have been named to endowed chairs for five-year terms: professor of philosophy Lucius Outlaw assumes the T. Winter Brown chair; professor of English Kim Benston holds the William K. Kenan, Jr. Professorship; and Julia Epstein, also a member of the English department, becomes the Barbara Riley Levin Professor of Comparative Literature.

While the Brown and Kenan chairs have existed for some time, the Levin professorship was created this year in response to a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to establish a program in comparative literature. The principal donor to the program is Gerald M. Levin, who contributed the funds in honor of his wife, Barbara. Mr. Levin is the president of Time Warner Inc. and chairs Haverford's board of managers.

This is the first of what President Tom Kessinger hopes will be eight new endowed chairs, part of the goal for "A Critical Balance, the Campaign for Haverford," a $75 million effort to bolster the college's endowment. The Barbara Levin Professorship will be inaugurated in a fall ceremony.


An expert on the writings of African and African-descended philosophers and intellectuals, Outlaw maintains a computer database from which he prepared an International Directory of Philosophers of African Descent. Outlaw has been hailed as a leader in furthering the acceptance of black philosophy. He says he will use the funds to "continue my research on African-American philosophy."

Kim Benston has received wide recognition for his work in Renaissance literature and performance studies, and is also a noted expert in the field of African-American literature. Benston earned his B.A., M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. at Yale University and taught there from 1980 until he arrived at Haverford in 1984.

Benston's prolific research has focused on such topics as Ralph Ellison, African-American Modernism, and African-American oral tradition. In 1990 he received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for his work on the role of the black arts movement in the history of African-American literature and culture.

Julia Epstein heads the advisory committee for the Haverford-Bryn Mawr comparative literature major. She received her B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. Before coming to Haverford in 1986, she taught at Drexel University and the College of William and Mary.

In 1989 Epstein detailed the narratives of an eighteenth-century novelist in her book, The Iron Pen: Frances Burney and the Politics of Women's Writing, published by the University of Wisconsin Press. She has written more than 80 book reviews on biography, literary criticism, feminist theory, and contemporary British and American fiction in nationwide newspapers and magazines.

Epstein plans to use the funds to support her present research studying medical narrative as a literary form. "I'm interested in medical case history as a kind of writing," says Epstein. "The literary aspect of my work involves how we explain things we don't understand, like epidemics and birth defects."

Epstein is confident about the future of the comparative literature major, which at Haverford draws faculty from a variety of departments. "The boundaries between disciplines have really been breaking down for quite a while," she says, "especially at a place like Haverford that has small, non-hierarchical departments. People can work together and cross-fertilize each other's interests."