

“Serving as a rabbinical intern on a college campus, beyond leading text study and *Shabbat* services each week, has presented me with a unique opportunity to foster a sense of adult Judaism during some of the most formative years of a young person’s life. With a focus on exciting Jewish programming and interfaith outreach, bringing in world-renowned speakers, and even teaching a college/Master’s level Jewish studies course, this has been one of the most fulfilling learning experiences I have had.”

Schusterman Fellow rabbinical student Aaron Miller, C ’11

“I spent the past two years serving as the monthly student rabbi of a small congregation with tremendous energy and vibrancy. My wife and I shared memorable experiences with our community, including studying together, *b’nai mitzvot*, baby namings, and conversions. As a student, they taught me how to listen to a congregation and how to strive to help them achieve their goals.”

Mandel Fellow rabbinical/education student Greg Weisman, RHSOE ’11, L ’13

“This summer I worked as a chaplain at Beth Israel Medical Center. This extraordinary experience taught me the importance of being a non-judgmental presence, an active listener, and a spiritual guide. I discovered that pastoral care was about facilitating a holy moment, because God was present within the intense patient-chaplain connection. I realized that when I helped patients express their stories of hope, suffering, and longing, some healing was possible.”

Rabbinical student Mara Young, NYSOE ’09, N ’11

“Students in HUC-JIR’s Miller High School Program explore what being Jewish means in preparation for heading off to college. In a safe and welcoming environment, we address challenging questions: How can they support Israel on campus? How can they find meaningful prayer experiences in diverse environments? How can they affirm Reform Judaism among various denominations in a college setting? I love watching these teenagers form confident and enthusiastic Jewish identities.”

Tisch Fellow rabbinical student Lisa Kingston, NYSOE ’09, N ’13

“As a Christian student of the Jewish experience in America, pursuing my graduate studies at HUC-JIR presents distinct advantages by enabling me to interact, both professionally and socially, with Jewish students who are actively pursuing entrance into the rabbinate and to enjoy discussions of faith that might not occur in other contexts. HUC-JIR’s welcoming environment affords its non-Jewish constituents opportunities to observe and participate in aspects of the Jewish faith, including the daily prayer services and holiday observations. I have been enriched by my experience at HUC-JIR, and remain thankful for the opportunity to pursue my graduate studies at this unique institution.”

Ph.D. student Matthew Semler, School of Graduate Studies, ’13

“The Schusterman Summer Internship gave me a chance to work closely with a rabbi in the Jewish community and learn from her professional experience. This was an invaluable opportunity to benefit from mentorship and lessons that are best learned outside of the classroom and in the field.”

Rabbinical student Courtney L. M. Berman, C ’14





"The year in Israel was incredibly rewarding academically. In the classroom we got a taste of Tanakh, liturgy, Hebrew, and Rabbinics from brilliant Israeli professors. Most memorable, however, were the Israel Seminar days during which we traced Israel's various narratives through its landscape and people. We learned how to look at sites as texts themselves, describing events of the past and current realities more vividly than we could ever get from a book."

Education student Sara Lauing, RHSOE '12

"The Mandel Fellowship focuses our cohort of rabbinical/education students on how to build innovative congregations by helping us recognize the traits within exceptional institutions that make them innovative. During our three-week seminar at the Mandel Leadership Institute in Jerusalem we developed our personal stance on Jewish Peoplehood and explored how our obligation to further it would have an impact wherever we would work in the future. I can't imagine my future rabbinate without having had this experience."

Mandel Fellow rabbinical/education student Philip Bazeley, NYSOE '10, N '12

"The spirituality retreat gave me permission to stop and take an intentionally rejuvenating break during the hectic semester. While the retreat was only one step in a long and ultimately never-ending process toward spiritual self-awareness, it reminded me what rabbinical leadership is all about — taking care of my soul so that I can guide others to take care of their own."

Rabbinical/education student Aron Klein, RHSOE '11, L '13

"My work with teens in a suburban congregation has helped me foster their connection to the Jewish community, encouraged their participation in *mitzvot*, and enriched their study of Jewish text, all within the context of the synagogue in order to prepare them to be active participants in their adult lives."

Education student Alyson Bazely, NYSOE '12

"The Israel Seminar for Jewish nonprofit management students exposed us to a wide range of historical and contemporary narratives that reflected on the growth and development of Israel, its government, its diverse population, and its prominent role in the global landscape. We met with Israeli scholars, political figures, university students, and nonprofit leaders and fundraisers who helped us understand Israel's 3rd sector. As future Jewish communal leaders, we will always be cognizant of our community's local and global Jewish identity and remain active in its everlong connection to Israel."

Jewish Nonprofit Management student Matthew Lipton-Schwartz, SJNM '12

"I have learned so much from my classmates and the outstanding faculty in the Doctor of Ministry Program. The diversity in our class spans age, gender, faith, origin, and family — each student brings maturity and intellect, as well as experience to our rich discussions, expertly guided by the faculty."

Doctor of Ministry student Rabbi/Cantor Vicki Axe, SSM '83