Judaic Studies

year of healthy growth during
which many new courses were added to the. curriculum and many new students joined the Program. All four of the core courses enjoyed large enrollments and there was significant student interest in many of the topics courses.
As students joined the program, a new feeling of community between students
and faculty has begun to develop.

CERTIFICATE AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

The certificate program continued to attract students. At the beginnijg
of the year, 13 students were enrolled in the program and the number has now risen to 19. Five of the certificate students graduated this year.

The most dramatic increase has been in the number of students desiring
to take a major in Judaic Studies through the I~novational Projects Board. While one student had chosen this option at the beginning of the year, our files indicate a total of 15 at present. One IPB major in Judaic Studies
will be awarded this year.

In light of the marked interest in the major as opposed to the certificate,
the Judaic Studies Committee has gone ahead with plans to apply for a regular major in Judaic Studies. A series of provisional guidelines for a major were drafted and have been put into effect in advising IPB majors. A letter of intent has been sent to SUNY-Central indicating our desire for a major. If
the letter is favorably received, we will submit our proposal in the fall

"Jewish F_olk Music." We hope to be able to repeat at least
some of these courses next year.

During the- academic year 19:f:7--78., the following undergraduate courses
were offered in Judaic Studies.

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Core Courses

Jud. St. 125
(also Hist. 152A)

History 153A

Topics Courses

Jud. St. 182F

Jud. St. 182G
(also German 290Y)

Jud. St. 188
(also Soc. 188)

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Fall 1977

COURSES

Jewish Civilization: Biblical Period

Medi~val Jewish History

Tonics in Jewish Thought & Society (M~ssianism)

Seminar on the Holocaust

Sociology of Jews

Instructor Enrollment

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FACULTY-STUDEN~ GATHERINGS

An effort was made this year to bring faculty and students together on
an informal basis ;,ri:th some educational or cultural program as the focus.
A faculty-student m.±:xer, cosponsored with the Jewish Student Union, was n.eld at the beginning of the year. On Fetruary 4, 1978, a gathering at the home of Professor David Biale featured a talk by our visitor from Haifa UniYersity, Professor Yaakov Goldstein and folk singing. On April 28, 1978, a ga~hering was held in the President 1 s Rouse at which David Skuse, who taught the Jewish Folk Music course, played Yiddish and Israeli music with the enserr.ble formed from the class.

Judaic Studies students also met twice during the year with the coordinator
to discuss problems and possible new- programs.

FRIE.rms OF JUDAIC STUDIES

The Friends of Judaic Studies were quite active this year and faculty
members from the Program participated in a numter of their activities. In
the beginning of the year, the Friends held a reception for the new coordinator. In October, David Biale gave a lecture to the Friends on "Intermarriage in the Biblical Period11 and in March, Rachel Bi ale gave a slide lecture on Ketubot •
In April, David Skuse ~resented a musical offering from his class's ensemble.

The Friends helued support the two T?:3 --:ci~ses i r: .;-;:.da..:. c St-:.i,iies: '"Women
in Se-wish Law" and "Jewish.Folk Music." Without thei.r assistance, the courses would probably not have taken place. The Friends have also indicated willingness to buy a copy of the Encyclopedia Judaica for a Judaic Studies reading room, should the Unj_versity give us a room on the 13th floor of the Library Tower.

PLAl'rS FOR THE FUTURE

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3.

4.

The Judaic Studies Commiitee felt that while our course offerings are quite diversified, they are ,not governed by any master plan for what a truly comprehensive Judaic Studies program should look like. We will de~rote
pa.rt of next year to developing guidelines for an ideal program and trJ
to identify where we are weak and where we a.re strong.

The History Department has expressed an interest in deYeloping a field in Jewish history and the Judaic Studies Program will assist in the formulation of criteria.

A comprehensive nroposal was submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a~pilot grant to renovate the Biblical History course and create a new interdisciplinary course