Kenan-Biddle Grant Proposal

jointly submitted by

Duke Jewish Student Union

and

UNC Chapel Hill Hillel

for consideration by

Larry Moneta and Carol Tresolini

and the Kenan-Biddle Partnership Advisory Committee
Contact Information

Student Leadership

- Glenn Rivkees, President, Duke Jewish Student Union
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Advisors

- Jenn Handel, Program Coordinator, Jewish Life at Duke
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  - Cell: (631)664-9820
- Michelle Brownstein Horowitz, Assistant Director, NC Hillel
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I. Rationale/executive summary

The Jewish communities of both Duke and UNC-CH are very strong. Both have unique traditions and aspects that make them very special to their members. However, never in recent memory have the Jewish students of both Duke and UNC-CH come together to embrace our common culture or to share our culture with our wider school communities.

Our goals for this program are to start the tradition of the Jewish students of Duke and UNC-CH working together to regularly enhance the experience of students from both schools. Our plan is to start with one program this first year, and to encourage our successors to continue to expand on and enhance the partnership in future years.

Furthermore, we wish to bring in the greater Duke and UNC-CH community and be able to share what makes the Jewish culture special and important to us.

II. Proposed Activities

Dates are tentative pending space and transportation availability. All events are open, will be publicized to the greater Duke and UNC-CH student communities, and will focus on creating relationships between students of both universities.
Our first event will be a social event located at either the UNC Hillel building located on the UNC-CH campus or the Freeman Center for Jewish Life located on the Duke University campus, pending a transportation logistic assessment. This event will focus on bringing the communities together in a social context to discuss what it means to be a Jewish student at a southern university, and we are researching relevant speakers to join us for this event. Students from both schools will be introduced to the history of Jews in the southern United States and learn to place themselves within this context. This event is tentatively scheduled during the week of March 3rd through March 7th, to coincide with rivalry week, and a finalized date will be determined during January, based on the timing that will ensure attendance. The event will involve a speaker to introduce the topic of southern Judaism, including Jewish southern cooking, keeping of the Jewish holidays, and building Jewish communities in the South. After an interactive presentation, students from both Duke and UNC-CH will participate in a group discussion and activities. Jewish southern style food will accompany the event.

Our second event will be a Purim event scheduled for the week following Spring Break. Purim is a wonderful Jewish tradition celebrating life. The holiday involves people dressing up to commemorate the story of Esther saving the Jewish people from Haman. To celebrate we will be hosting a semi-formal event at the Blue Zone of the UNC-CH athletic complex, pending space availability. This will be an opportunity for the Jewish communities of both universities to come together in the celebration of this important holiday, and for the communities to share the cultural significance with those of the greater university student community. Community members will celebrate, eat traditional hamentashen, and socialize together expanding Duke-UNC-CH community relations.

III. Qualifications

The Duke Jewish Student Union and the UNC-CH Hillel are the representative Jewish student body organizations of both campuses.

The Duke Jewish Student Union (or JSU) is Duke’s student-led Jewish undergraduate organization. We strive to build an inclusive Jewish community through fun, diverse, and engaging programming. Beyond our formal activities, we strive to create friendships across our community. Our membership comes from a variety of backgrounds and ideologies. JSU is a pluralistic organization, we do not align ourselves with a specific Jewish movement. Furthermore, all of our events are open to the entire Duke student body, which includes over 700 Jewish undergraduates.

North Carolina Hillel's purpose shall be to create an environment on campus where Jewish life can thrive to enrich the university experience of Jewish students, staff, and faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as contribute to the diversity of the campus. This shall be accomplished through providing the most effective religious, cultural, social, and
educational programming for Jewish students, staff, and faculty at the university. This organization is founded on the belief that student's interests are diverse and that the students are the ones best able to actualize initiatives that will reflect these interests. NC Hillel is committed to pluralism and therefore welcomes diversity of both participants and activities. North Carolina Hillel is guided by Hillel's mission to enrich the lives of undergraduate and graduate students in a pluralistic and distinctively Jewish environment so that they may enrich the Jewish People and the world. NC Hillel is committed to:

- Creating a pluralistic, welcoming and inclusive environment;
- Fostering student growth and the balance in being distinctively Jewish and universally human;
- Advancing social justice, Jewish learning and spirituality
- Embracing Israel and global Jewish peoplehood
- Delivering excellence, innovation, accountability and results

This proposal is being submitted by Glenn Rivkees, President of the Duke Jewish Student Union on behalf of his organization, and jointly by Jason Cooper and Noam Soker, Co-Presidents of the UNC-CH Hillel, on behalf of their organization.

IV. Programmatic Benefits from the Project

Our aims are to:

- Facilitate a continuing collaboration between UNC-CH and Duke University
- Specifically facilitate a collaboration between the Jewish students of both universities
- Encourage future collaboration and cooperation between the two schools
- Provide an opportunity to share experiences and form relationships
- Share the Jewish culture and promote understanding of the Jewish culture with the greater Duke and UNC-CH communities

V. Faculty Member Assessment

a. UNC-CH

Michelle Brownstein Horowitz, Assistant Director, NC Hillel

As the headquarters for many of the many Hillel's throughout the state, the NC Hillel staff works with a variety of departments and administrations of universities across the state including NC State, UNC Greensboro, and UNC Charlotte. Working with these schools happens on a weekly basis.

b. Duke

Jenn Handel, Program Coordinator, Jewish Life at Duke
Serving as the advisor for Duke Jewish Student Union (JSU) has been an amazing experience for me in the three months I have been at Duke. Starting in a new role, a new school and a new city can be challenging but I believe that I have made valuable connections in my time here. While I am not as season as some of my colleagues, I have the eagerness to continue making connections across the campus and the Jewish community in the region. This program initiative is an opportunity for not only myself to network, but also the students.

VI. Expected Products and Presentations

- Speaker on Judaism in the southern United States
- Opportunity to celebrate holiday of Purim and share it with the greater university communities
- Lasting relationships and cooperation between the Jewish communities of Duke and UNC-CH as well as the larger school communities

VII. Detailed Budget Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judaism in the South</td>
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<td>Venue</td>
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<td>Catering</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purim Semi-formal Event</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Decorations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>Tables/Tablecloths (necessary per Kashrut rules)</td>
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<td>Item</td>
<td>Cost</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing Materials</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7750</strong></td>
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VIII. C.V. for all Participants

The C.V.s of the presidents of the student organizations are attached on the following pages.
Jason M. Cooper  
(845) 596-3376 • jason.cooper.12@gmail.com • New City, NY 10956

Education
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) | Chapel Hill, NC
Full-time Student, Aug 2010 – Present
- Major: Biomedical Engineering
- GPA 3.66/4.00; Dean’s List
Clarkstown High School North | New City, NY
Sept 2006 – Jun 2010
- Graduated with Honors - Top 1% out of 392 students; National AP Scholar
- 35/36 ACT Exam Overall Score

Employment
Optical Microscopy and Analysis Laboratory, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health | Frederick, MD
Summer Research Intern, May 2013 – Aug 2013
- Worked on a MATLAB-based system called Cell Organizer to create synthetic images of cellular nuclei and membranes in 2 and 3 dimensions

Optical Coherence Imaging Laboratory at UNC | Chapel Hill, NC
Research Assistant for Dr. Amy Oldenburg, May 2012 – Present
- Secondary Author Fractals and fluctuations: Spatial and temporal correlations in optical coherence tomography of human breast cancer models
- Secondary Author Motility-, autocorrelation-, and polarization-sensitive optical coherence tomography discriminates cells and gold nanorods within 3D tissue cultures
- Perform cell culturing processes weekly with cancerous and non-cancerous breast cells
- Make three-dimensional gel samples of cells to be used in OCT imaging
- Perform fluorescent staining and imaging of gel samples

Blue Rill Day Camp | Airmont, NY
Group Counselor, Jun 2011 – Aug 2011

Extracurricular Activities
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, Omega Chapter | Chapel Hill, NC
Executive Board: Sentinel, Mar 2013 – Present
- A Senior advisory position; in charge of risk management
Executive Board: Vice President, Mar 2012 – Mar 2013
- Along with the President, lead ongoing fraternity business and worked with AEPi National members to foster the fraternity’s mission
Executive Board: Brother-at-Large, Mar 2011 – Mar 2012
- Oversaw the Minor Board, which is comprised of multiple fraternity chair positions
Minor Board: Hillel Chair, Dec 2010 – Mar 2011
- Acted as the bridge between AEPi and UNC Hillel, connecting the two organizations for mutual benefit

UNC Hillel | Chapel Hill, NC
Executive Board: Co-President, Feb 2013 – Present
- In charge of UNC Hillel’s undergraduate Student Board and its several committees
Social Co-Chair, Oct 2010 – Jan 2011
- Planned social events to bring together the Jewish campus community

National Honor Society | New City, NY
Vice President of Community Service, Jun 2009 – Jun 2010; Member, Jan 2009 – Jun 2009

Varsity Winter/Spring Track | New City, NY
Captain, Nov 2009 – Jun 2010; Member, Mar 2008 – Nov 2009

Community Service
New City Volunteer Ambulance Corps | New City, NY
Volunteer Member, May 2010 – Aug 2012
- Certified EMT-B in New York State

Youth Corps Member, Treasurer, and Captain, Jan 2007 – May 2010

Skills
Experience with MATLAB, NI Multisim, NI LabVIEW, and SolidWorks
NOAM SOKER
233 McCauley Street, Apartment B5 - Chapel Hill, NC 27516 - (336)508-8621
sokern@live.unc.edu

EDUCATION
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies - Intrapersonal and Organizational Overall GPA: 2.96
Expected Graduation: May 2014
Dean’s List: Spring 2013.

WORK EXPERIENCE
Chapel Hill Kehillah Religious School
Student Teacher
- Fall 2010- Spring 2011, Fall 2012- Spring 2013: Develop lesson plans and instruct seven third grade students weekly in all curriculum areas including Hebrew, Religion, Culture, and Geography; encouraged individual, group, and whole class learning; delegate tasks to assistant
- Fall 2011 - Spring 2012: Same as above but specializing in Hebrew for students from third grade to seventh grade; encourage individual, group, and whole class learning

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
Hillel Institute Conference Coordinating Intern
- June 2013 - August 2013
  • Plan a major session for professional to become more educated about engagement and equipped to engage with students
  • Organize logistics for the conference
  • Assist professionals and students attending the conference
  • Execute a conference for all United States and Canadian Hillel professionals and 250 student interns

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE
North Carolina Hillel - former Social Chair, Engagement Co-Chair, current Co-President
- Plan average of 8 social events per semester; book event space, program, divide and assign tasks to committee members and oversee event
- Plan 7 Week of Welcome campus wide Hillel promotion events over 10 days; reserve space on campus, program, create back up plans, order food and merchandise, divide and assign tasks to committee and board members, and oversee all events
- Publicize events over social media and through face-to-face communication
- Execute and manage one large event every semester
- Overseer and manage fourteen person board as Co-President
- Educate potential donor concerning the programs being implemented by the student board for the campus and Jewish community

Students for Students International - former Events Co-Director, Communication Co-Director
- Plan, publicizing, and managing three talent shows, each raising more than $300
- Coordinate music, food, and fundraising program at three auctions, latest raised $8000
- Raised $6,000 dollars in a fund raising program
- Maintain publicity including the Facebook page and Twitter weekly
- Delegate articles, social media management, and graphic design projects to a committee

SKILLS
- Fluent in Hebrew; Proficient in social media and Microsoft Office; Good time management;
Education
2014 (anticipated)

Duke University, Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science
GPA 3.514/4.000 Dean's List Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Spring 2012
Study Abroad Semester at Queen Mary, University of London (London, England) during Junior year

2010

Winter Park High School, International Baccalaureate Diploma
GPA 4.0/4.0 ACT 36/36 SAT 2340/2400
Honors Valedictorian (class of 720), National Merit Scholar, 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction

Experience
Summer 2013

Facebook, Production Engineering Intern (Menlo Park, CA)
- Worked on the Traffic Infrastructure Team
- Developed log processing pipeline and dashboards for analyzing native and external CDN traffic using Python
- Communicated regularly and met with CDN vendor to discuss operational difficulties
- Analyzed network traffic for partners and shared results with business development team
- Contributed libraries, mentored new-hire, and participated in hackathons

2013-present

Thursday, Director of Infrastructure (Durham, NC) - thursdayishere.com
- Created a social mobile app that enables friends to share plans with each other
- Designed back-end API for information storage and dissemination using Heroku, Node.js, and PostgreSQL

2010-present

Duke Chronicle Online, Director of Online Operations (Durham, NC)
- Managed and deployed AWS including S3, CloudFront CDN, and Route 53 DNS
- Configured and supported Heroku production deployment, including troubleshooting site reliability issues
- Redesigned qDuke.com (student start page) using HTML/CSS/AJAX front-end and Node.js back-end

Summer 2012

Google, Software Engineering Intern (Mountain View, CA)
- Worked on the Borg/Kernel Site Reliability Engineering Team
- Designed and developed tool to enhance software qualification process using Go, HTML, CSS and JavaScript
- Contributed enhancements and code fixes to production monitoring software
- Packaged, tested, and released system infrastructure software

2010-2011

VoraciTee, Chief Technology Officer (Durham, NC)
- Setup and managed cloud IT and remote LAMP server
- Developed e-Commerce retail solution and corporate web presence utilizing CMS with custom CSS and HTML
- Presented at the 2011 Kairos Society Global Summit held in partnership with the United Nations and NYSE
2007

Thinking Screen Media, Programming Consultant (Wellesley, MA)
- Spoke with client to understand product scope and timeline
- Created ‘widgets’ using JavaScript to run on both Google Desktop and Yahoo! Widgets Platforms
- Expanded content distribution channels, eliminating need for client’s users to buy additional hardware

2006-2009

GRgadgets & GRapps, Founder and Head Developer (Winter Park, FL)
- Developed fourteen small apps (“gadgets”) for Google Desktop platform using JavaScript and XML
- Gadgets totaled over 3.5k unique active users during a one month period in February 2008
- Created open source PHP application “GRxmlEDIT” to assist in creation and maintenance of simple XML files
- GRxmlEDIT has 345+ downloads and peaked at SourceForge rank of 3,206 out of 300k+ projects
- Received “API Guru” designation by Google

Skills

Languages Python, Go, PHP, Java, JavaScript, VHDL, MATLAB
Software Git, Quartus II, Eclipse, MATLAB, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign
Web Development HTML, CSS, CDN, DNS, LAMP stack, Heroku, analytics
Operating Systems Linux, Windows, Mac
Data Management PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQL, XML, XQuery, XPath, MapReduce

Leadership

2013-2014
Duke Jewish Student Union, President (Durham, NC)

2011-2012
Beth El Synagogue, Sunday School Teacher (Durham, NC)

2010-2011
Partners for Youth, Mentor (Durham, NC)

Summers 2008-2011
Camp Walden, Counselor (Diamond Point, NY)