

Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program Newsletter

YCHonors is a department



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Welcome back (again)!

The Semester Resumes...

It has been an eventful return to campus, starting with this past week's *Great Debate*.

Bipartisanship might be dead in Washington, DC, but it is alive and well on Wilf Campus! This past Thursday night, 80 men and women from Yeshiva University came together to watch Mitt Romney and President Obama participate in what everyone agreed was an epic debate. Students crowded into the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein lounge immediately after the Gilad Shalit lecture - also a wonderfully attended and fascinating campus event - and partook in a lively discussion once the debate concluded.



Dr. Bevan and Dr. Sezgin from the Political Science Department watched the debate and stayed for a discussion afterwards, offering crucial insights and perspective on the importance of this debate for the 2012 election. Dr. Sezgin gave a

brief lecture on the history of presidential debates and the role they generally play during an election year, and then students argued about which candidate they thought performed better and, more importantly, which candidate they believed would ultimately win in November. It was clear, in the informal poll conducted following the debate, that the battle lines were clearly drawn, pro-Obama and pro-Romney. No one felt swayed to change their opinion, but there was generally agreement that this election has been an incredible one to watch and follow.

Ultimately, the event, which was hosted by the JSS Honors Program, the Young Democrats, and the Young Republicans, offered a bit of hope during this cynical election period that politically passionate people can come together for a couple of hours of good television.

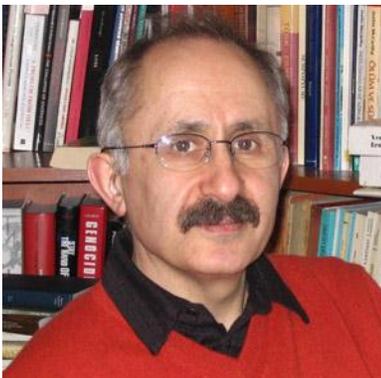


UPCOMING EVENTS

There are a number of upcoming events that we would like to remind you about, and several that we are delighted to announce:

Upcoming Honors Luncheons:

This Wednesday at noon in the Honors Lounge, we will be joined by Dr. Taner Akcam. Dr. Akcam, a professor of history at Clark University, will be discussing the legacy of the Armenian Genocide.



Dr. Taner Akcam

A week after Dr. Akcam's visit, Dr. Steve Fine will be coming to the Honors Lounge for lunch as well, to discuss his recent research on the Arch of Titus. For more information about the Akcam and Fine presentations, please

see last week's newsletter, which details both lecturers' topics in full.



Dr. Steve Fine

Please RSVP as soon as possible for this week's luncheon with Dr. Akcam. Send an email to YCHonors@yu.edu to let us know if you will be joining us for the event.

For those attending, or on the waitlist for this Sunday's performance of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, we will contact you shortly with ticket information and transportation information. We are looking forward to the show!

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Featured Upcoming Event

BACK TO BROADWAY! SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH TRIP TO HENRIK IBSEN'S

An Enemy of the People

Information about how to obtain tickets will appear in the next newsletter

Henrik Ibsen is now universally regarded as the true father of modernism in theater and the greatest playwright of the nineteenth century; many people consider him the greatest playwright since Shakespeare, and as influential as the bard on the world's stage. But during his lifetime he was quite a controversial figure, as he endeavored to expose what lay beneath the facade of the bourgeois respectability of the European society of his time. He tackled subjects like marital infidelities, the role of women, financial recklessness and venereal disease in his tireless attempt at understanding – and representing – the modern age.

In *An Enemy of the People*, Ibsen went one step further. As described in the notes to the program, “it is the story of one man's struggle to do the right thing and speak the truth when surrounded by people who would prefer he keep silent. Dr. Thomas Stockmann discovers toxic

bacteria in the waters of his small coastal town in Norway, which have been developed into a spa. The doctor expects his discovery to make him a local hero, but the town has invested a large amount of money toward the building of baths, and, fearing economic ruin, his brother, Mayor Peter Stockmann, warns him to keep his findings secret. Political trickery, opposing personal ethics and sibling rivalry soon play out in Rebecca Lenkiewicz's new version of this timely play”.

The theme of confrontation between the individual and the community was an attempt by Ibsen to address the storm of criticism that some of his previous plays had elicited, particularly *Ghosts*, which he had written just a year before. But in the selection of the subject, Ibsen also shows his fascination for the recently discovered world of microbiology. The play was written in 1882, the same year in which Louis Pasteur was made a member of the Academie Francaise, which

can be seen as a symbol of the final acceptance of Pasteur's ideas on microbes and the final rejection of the theories of spontaneous generation. The play can thus be understood as an investigation of the social responsibility of the scientist and evidence of the interaction between science and theater. In publishing it, Ibsen identified himself with a long European tradition of bringing themes of science to bear on social issues explored in the venue of the theater. This tradition goes back to Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*, and persists through some of the great playwrights of the 20th century like Brecht and Durrenmatt, culminating in the explosion of the phenomenon of the representation of science in contemporary theater, which, since Michael Freyn's *Copenhagen*, has been a vital component of 21st century dramaturgy.

-Dr. Gabriel Cwilich

Other Events of Note:

Jazz at Lincoln Center

Thursday, November 17 at 8:00 PM
 Ticket information to come

We are thrilled to announce our first concert outing of the semester. On November 17 we will be going to Jazz at Lincoln Center to see a performance of “The Best of Blue Note.” It would take a book to cite all of the iconic recording sessions issued under Blue Note’s imprimatur since the record company’s founding in 1939. In this celebration of the label that defined the down-home, funky sound known as hard bop, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will present arrangements of the repertoire by Horace Silver, Dexter Gordon, Lee Morgan, and other Blue Note artists. The JALC Orchestra will be joined by trumpeter Roy Hargrove and tenor saxophonist JD Allen.

In anticipation of this wonderful event, we will be joined by Michael Mwenso, Programming Executive at Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola, for our **Honors Luncheon on November 14 in the JSS Honors Lounge**. Mr. Mwenso will be lecturing on the history of the Blue Note label and providing background and context on its importance.



Born in 1984, Michael Mwenso is a native of Sierra Leone and moved to London at the age of eleven. He developed his love for jazz at an early age by attending performances by such luminaries as Betty Carter, Elvin Jones, and Johnny Griffin. He also developed a relationship with the King of Soul, James Brown, who allowed Michael to perform with him while on tour in Europe. Trained as both a vocalist and trombonist,

Michael has won various musical competitions, including the Royal Northern College of Music and the Arts Educational Young People’s awards. After Hurricane Katrina, he was asked to be a vocalist in the play, “Katrina,” a production of Jericho House in London. In 2007, he was invited to run the jam sessions at the world famous Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club (London). While there, developed an educational program for children to study jazz at Ronnie Scott’s.

In 2010, Wynton Marsalis personally asked him to join the programming team at Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) and head the after-hours program at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola here in New York City, where he is currently employed.



Join the JJS Honors Program for:

November and the Arts!

Theater

Glengarry Glen Ross

Oct. 28 3:00 PM



An Enemy of the People

Nov. 11 2:00 PM

Music

Jazz at Lincoln Center

Nov. 17 8:00 PM



New York Philharmonic

Nov. 27 7:30 PM

Symphonic Orchestra of Venezuela

Dec. 9 2:00 PM



For more information, email [ychonors@yu.edu](mailto:yhonors@yu.edu)



Yeshiva University