

'Celebrate And Seize Exceptional Opportunities' Education Leader Says Great Positions Are Available To Touro's Class of 2006

By Shimon Golding

As the Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center filled up with the participants of Touro College's 32nd annual commencement, Dr. Bernard Lander, Touro's founder and president, no doubt looked at the graduates and admired the fine work they had done to reach this milestone. But more assuredly, the thousands of graduates, parents and guests were amazed by what Dr. Lander himself had accomplished to reach this moment in time. After all, no other university president in America has remained continuously in school as long as Lan-



Dr. Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College.

Touro will, in total, confer over 6000 degrees this season alone, their recipients having attained a college education within a true Torah atmosphere. All of this came into being due to Dr. Lander's realized dream, along with his committed and talented staff. This year, in addition to the graduating students, two deserving individuals were awarded honorary degrees. Mikhail Leibov, president of Corbina Telecom, Russia's fifth largest independent telecommunications carrier and second largest broadband Internet provider, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Professor Jerome Miller, dean of Communications and College Affairs, commended Leibov "for his support of and beneficence to the Lander Institute Moscow, his remarkable and dynamic activism in shaping and maintaining an Orthodox Jewish community in Russian and his accomplishments in harnessing the power of technology to improve the lives of others."

The president of The George Washington University and distinguished leader in higher education, Dr. Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. In a tribute to Trachtenberg, Dean Miller cited him "for his visionary leadership in transforming the landscape of higher education in America, his imaginative reinvention of a historic university, his fervent commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world), and his pursuit of peace, wherever it may take him."

In his keynote address to the graduates, Trachtenberg told the class of 2006 to "celebrate the exceptional opportunities available today to Jews the world over and seize them. Don't be shy; be brave. Don't make excuses; make opportunities." He further urged the students to "acknowledge our unpaid and unpayable debts to those who helped us in the past by helping people who will be our posterity and our future. We can do this with financial gener-



Valedictorian Gary Silber, Flatbush Campus



Valedictorian David I. Rabinowitz, Lander College for Men, Queens

osity, of course, but also—perhaps better—by doing for others as mentors, guides and friends without any expectation of recompense at any time."

Touro's students graduated from the Lander Colleges (Flatbush, Manhattan and Queens), the Graduate School of Jewish Studies and the School for Lifelong Education. After describing Touro's growth over the past 35 years, which has included the establishment and multiple campuses in the New York area and branches in Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Moscow and Berlin, Dr. Lander announced plans for the opening of two medical schools—one in New York (osteopathic) and the other in New Jersey (M.D. program).

Each of the valedictorians combined their majors in various pre-professional areas with Torah studies, following the ideals of Touro. David I. Rabinowitz represented the Lander College for Men in Queens. Gary Silber of the Lander College of Arts and Sciences in Flatbush told his fellow graduates, "We are the next link in the unbroken chain of Jewish learning. We must embrace the Mesorah of our parents and grandparents."

Emily Gorokhovskiy-Chandalov of the Lander College of Arts and Sciences in Flatbush said, "We are leaving this hall not only with a diploma in hand, but infused with a sense of religious duty." Tamar S. Snyder graduated from the Lander College for Women in Manhattan. She recited Rabbi Yisrael Salanter's declaration that Torah is no dependent on time and place. She added that "education does not end with a flipping of a tassel, but that every day we should learn something new."

Rabinowitz and Silber were each accepted to three of the nation's most prestigious law schools" Yale, Harvard and Columbia. Gorokhovskiy-Chandalov and her

will be



Valedictorian Emily Gorokhovskiy-Chandalov, Flatbush Campus.



Valedictorian Tamar S. Snyder, Lander College for Women, Manhattan.

husband moving to Leipzig, Germany, where they plan to contribute to the rebuilding of Jewish life by organizing a Jewish studies program for teenagers of Russian Jewish immigrants. Snyder plans to pursue a master's degree in journalism. Vice present and Dean of Students Robert Goldschmidt conducted a spirited two part awards ceremony. He recognized the following students for academic excellence: Ari Derdik, Daniel Dym, Rudi Y. Gliksmann-Pesach, Nechama Gurwitz, Sarah Jofen, Anne Rochel Leiser, Rachel Lewitan, Benjamin L. Miller, Steve Neumann, Miriam Schonkopf, Penina Schreiber, Nelson Tepfer, Hannah Ziemba and Joseph Zimmerman.

Dean Goldschmidt presented awards for departmental achievement to: Gittie Mushell, Malkie Neumann, Lauren Peikes, Accounting; Ari Derdik, New York State CPA Society Medal; Penina S. Schreiber, Menachem M. Yarmush, Becker Conviser Prize; Miriam Schonkopf, Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award; Shira S. Finkelstein, Rina Gorokhovskiy-Chandalov, Aron Yehuda, Biology; Volvi Fleischman, Interdisciplinary Sciences; Tuva Epstein, Nechama Gurwitz, Computer Science; Tova Shimunova, Desktop Publishing; Gershi Silber, Economics; Miriam Friedman, Rivka Mittel, Education; Lauren Michelle Lillien, English; Joshua Dov Sturm,

Nelson Tepfer, Finance; Yaffa Hilsenrath, History; Cheryl Shulamis Mayerfeld, Humanities; Leah Feuer, Management; and Yossi Schwartz, Marketing.

Other awardees were: Steve Neumann, Dr. Edith Luchins Prize in Mathematics; Nechemia Hoch, Ari Lustig, Political Science; Chavie Aberbach, Benjamin L. Miller, Daniel L. Weiss, Psychology; Miriam Baldinger, Abraham Samuel Luchins Memorial Award in Psychology; Rudi Y. Gliksmann-Pesach, Amos Rozet, Elisheva Shereshevsky and Shira R. Soleimani, Speech Pathology.

Also, from the School for Lifelong Education: becca ner, Inter-



(L-R) Dean Jerome Miller; Dr. Stephen Joel Trachtenberg receiving his Honorary Doctor of Laws degree; VP Stanley Boylan; and Dean Robert Goldschmidt.



(L-R) Dean Jerome Miller; Dr. Lander; Mikhail Leibov receiving his Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; VP Stanley Boylan; and Dean Robert Goldschmidt.

disciplinary Arts; Devorah Sonnenschein, Academic Achievement; Helen Davis, Chess; and Eliyahu S. Schreiber, Special Achievement.

Dean Goldschmidt presented the David and Goldie Lander Memorial Award to Daniel Dym and the Hadassah Lander Memorial Award to Chavie Aberbach, in recognition of their academic achievements and their commitment to Torah values and community service.

The graduates majored in 15 different fields, with the largest concentration in accounting (CPA), speech therapy, health sciences (occupational and physical therapy), psychology and education. Most studied for one or more years at seminaries and yeshivas in Israel.

Separate graduation ceremonies are held for the Jacob D. Fuchsberg law Center, the School of Health Sciences, the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, the School of General Studies, The School of Career and Applied Studies, Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, CA), Touro University International (Cypress, CA), Moscow University Touro, Lander Institute Moscow and Touro College Berlin. In all, Touro College will have awarded a total of 6375 doctor of philosophy, doctor of osteopathic medicine, juris doctor, master's bachelor's and associate degrees by the end of the 2006 commencement season. ■