



Gratz Insider, October 2014 - Story Continuation

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Alumnus Josh Buchin Jumpstarts His Future at Gratz

Born and raised in California, Buchin worked in a Jewish preschool in Berkley after high school. He describes his postsecondary education at that point as "eclectic." He had enrolled in a few different college programs, but none of them were conducive to his learning style.

In need of some early childhood education credits for work, Buchin turned to the Gratz College website at the suggestion of a co-worker. Soon, he was taking other online classes at Gratz as well. Three-and-a-half years later, in 2011, he graduated from Gratz with a bachelor's in Jewish studies.

"I fell in love with the materials; I fell in love with the format," says Buchin. "I am a self-motivated learner, and Gratz allowed me to thrive by working toward my strengths." His advisor and professor, Dr. Ruth Sandberg, concurred, describing Buchin as "a highly motivated student while at Gratz, with a fine intellect."

Although living three time zones away from his professors, Buchin attributes his success largely to the personal, one-on-one attention that he received from Gratz. For example, while working on his independent project on Jewish and Yiddish folktales, he spoke regularly with his professor, Dr. Michael Steinlauf. Buchin describes a customized learning experience at Gratz, with a faculty focused on the interests of the individual student. In fact, even after moving on to the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Buchin still emails some of his Gratz professors with questions.

Summarizing his experience at Gratz, Buchin says, "I owe the College a very sincere thank-you for providing me, in such a warm and welcoming way, with something that can't be measured, a foundation and a background in Jewish studies. Gratz is a very large piece of where I am today."