NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hebrew, Yiddish awards to KU Jewish Studies students

LAWRENCE, KS – Two students in the University of Kansas Jewish Studies Program have been awarded prestigious U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) for the study of Hebrew and Yiddish this summer and next academic year. The University of Kansas is one of the higher education institutions selected by the Department of Education to grant these awards based on merit, and the FLAS program covers tuition and provides a subsistence allowance for students taking courses in a modern foreign language and related area or international studies.

Mr. Michael Lebovitz, originally of Prairie Village, Kansas, received the award for the study of Yiddish and will use it at the six-week program at the YIVO-Bard Institute Summer Language Program in New York City. Mr. Lebovitz will study the language in an intensive setting and will also be allowed to take electives in Jewish history, literature, theater and food culture. “My grandparents spoke this language and I have a deep connection to Jewish history,” he stated. “I have always been very excited about learning about Jewish heritage and there is no better way to do that than to learn the language of European Jewry.”

Ms. Maggie Boyles, originally from Bedford, Pennsylvania, has lived in many places before making her way to KU for college. She was awarded an academic-year FLAS fellowship in both Hebrew and Yiddish, and has chosen to study Yiddish for the 2013-2014 academic year at KU. “I have long been enamored of Yiddish as a language and have been very interested in the history of the Yiddish theatre, especially in the United States,” she stated.

Both Mr. Lebovitz and Ms. Boyles have taken Yiddish at KU and the fellowships will allow them to build upon this in an intensive setting. “I have been studying language here for a long time now and I have never been anything less than impressed by the tenacity and determination shown by all the teachers and faculty members,” reflected Mr. Lebovitz. “They have truly made learning interesting and rewarding.”
For more information on Hebrew and Yiddish study at KU, or to learn more about the FLAS program, contact the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas (http://jewishstudies.ku.edu).

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