

Finding Aid
Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander Collection
1915-2010, Bulk 1970-1999



TOURO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ARCHIVES

Processed 2013 by Archivist Philip Papas, MLS, as a part of the Touro College Libraries' commitment to research, scholarship and the transmission of knowledge.

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SUMMARY

Creators: Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander, and the faculty and staff of Touro College

Title: Bernard Lander Collection

Date: 1915-2010

Extent: 333 linear feet (256 document boxes, 2 flat boxes, plaques and other various framed wall art, statuettes and trophies)

Touro Archives Accession Number: 001

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander (June 17, 1915 – February 8, 2010), founder and first president of Touro College, was a social scientist and educator, a leader in the Jewish community and a pioneer in Jewish and general higher education.

He earned a bachelor's degree in 1936 from Yeshiva College and was ordained as an Orthodox rabbi in 1938, serving as Rabbi at Baltimore's Congregation Beth Jacob. Returning to New York City in 1944, he earned a doctorate in sociology from Columbia University and taught as a professor of sociology for over two decades at Hunter College and Yeshiva University, where he established the university's graduate schools of education, psychology and social work and served as dean of its Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies from 1954 to 1969.

For eight years he served as a senior director of a national study for the University of Notre Dame of South Bend, Indiana on the problems of youth. He authored a book of his research in Baltimore entitled *Towards an Understanding of Juvenile Delinquency* as well as numerous articles in the field of sociology. He also served as a consultant to the Maryland State Commission on Juvenile Delinquency. Dr. Lander was honored by the Council of New York State College Presidents for his lifetime contributions to higher education. A former president of the Queens Jewish Center in Forest Hills, Queens, he was also an Honorary Vice President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Dr. Lander was the recipient of the landmark ruling by Rabbi Moshe Feinstein concerning the Orthodox position on Christian-Jewish dialogue in a 1967 letter published in *Igros Moshe*.

Dr. Lander was one of three associate directors of New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia's Committee on Unity, established in 1944 as the city's first Commission on Human Rights. The multi-faith commission prepared the first civil rights legislation for

New York State. He later served as a consultant to three United States Presidents and was part of the seven-member commission that established the historic "War on Poverty" program in the U.S. He served as a consultant to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, on an advisory council on public assistance established by Congress, and was a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime under the Johnson and Kennedy administrations.

In 1970, he founded Touro College and presided over its growth into a multi-campus, international university with approximately 17,500 students at campus locations in New York, California, Florida, Nevada, Israel, Russia, France and Germany. Touro offers programs in liberal arts, medical schools and a law school, among others.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Bernard Lander Collection consists of administrative records created by Dr. Lander throughout his lifetime, or retained by him during his presidency at Touro College from its inception until his death. Included are a wide variety of documents and artifacts pertaining to the founding, operations and expansion of Touro College. The majority of the collection spans roughly from 1970 to 1999, with a small number of items pre-dating Touro or dealing with non-Touro subject matter.

The records are comprised of correspondence, memoranda, reports, financial documents, photographs, architectural blueprints and materials published by the college for internal and public use. The collection preserves the day-to-day operations of the College as well as outlining the vision of Dr. Lander and others in shaping its growth and development.

While many of the holdings were created by Dr. Lander, as President of the college, correspondence and many other documents originating from deans, program directors, board members, faculty and staff and other Touro personnel and associates passed through his hands and were filed by his administrative assistants.

Holdings not created by Dr. Lander or Touro associates include media clippings and recordings, educational materials by institutions which subsequently merged with Touro College, and other items such as publications or ephemera which were preserved due to provenance or other significant factors.

In addition to the bulk of the collection, which concern Touro College, are materials that document Dr. Lander's work as a sociologist and professor prior to his founding of Touro. These include correspondence, compiled statistics, field recordings and other

research data and published writings by Dr. Lander on juvenile delinquency and other topics.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

The original collection was processed between 2007 and 2013 in accordance with Touro Library archival procedures, by Archivist Philip Papas. Beginning in August 2011, the transfer and processing of subsequent records was initiated with the assistance of Archival Assistant Ruth Schneider.

FUNDING SOURCE

No outside funding was required for the processing or preservation of these materials.

PROVENANCE NOTE

The Touro College Archives in 2007 originally consisted of 65 large file-drawer length cartons, culled from the records of the college's founder, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander. These records primarily spanned the period from the school's formation ca. 1970 to the year 1999, and had been placed in storage as records not needed for the current operations of the institution. They were accessed beginning in 2005 by biographer Max Rosenblum, who had been employed to write the story of Dr. Lander's life. At the author's suggestion, Dr. Jacqueline Maxin and Michael Rotenfeld, directors of Touro College's library, planned and recommended the creation of a new full-time archivist's position and an appropriate office to properly house the historic records. With the approval of Dr. Lander, an archival space was secured for these documents at the college's main campus at 27-33 West 23rd street in Manhattan, and an archivist hired to organize and preserve them.

In 2010, following the passing of Dr. Lander, materials from his home in Forest Hills, NY were added to the collection, with the cooperation and assistance of the Lander family. Included in this acquisition were many photographs, wall art, trophies, awards and other mementos, and a large collection of sociology books.

In 2011, an additional 54 cartons of materials from Touro's executive administrative offices were transferred to the archive's second home, at 65 Broadway, the site of Touro's Graduate School of Business and School of Education. These cartons contained primarily materials dating for the period 1999-2005, representing files no longer required for daily operations of the administrative offices of the college.

In addition to the two accessions of Dr. Lander's papers and items from his home, which comprise the bulk of the Archives, several smaller collections have been acquired since 2007. These collections, obtained from past and present faculty, board members and administrators make up an additional 62.5 linear feet of the Archives, are exclusive of the Lander Collection, and are not included in this finding aid.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Touro College is an independent institution of higher education under Jewish auspices, established to perpetuate and enrich the Jewish heritage and to support Jewish continuity, as well as to serve the general community in keeping with the historic Jewish commitment to the transmission of knowledge, social justice, and compassionate concern for, and service to, society.

Touro College sprang from a study Dr. Lander conducted for the University of Notre Dame in the late 1960s. Asked to determine the causes of the unrest that was roiling college campuses nationwide, he found that many leaders of the revolts were Jews who felt adrift and marginalized in American college culture.

Addressing a leadership conference of the Union of Jewish Congregations of America in 1969, Dr. Lander called the modern campus a "crisis area for Jewish survival," as reported by *The New York Times*.

In response, he founded Touro College, which began in a United States government surplus building on 44th Street, just west of Fifth Avenue. The college was named for Isaac Touro and his son Judah, Jewish leaders in Colonial America. Its current headquarters are on West 23rd Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Touro offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Jewish studies and liberal arts and sciences, serving the diverse components of the Jewish community. In consonance with the universal aspect of its mission, the college provides neighborhood-based programs for underserved members of the community, and offers professional and graduate programs in such areas as education, law, medicine, pharmacy, the allied health sciences, social work, and business, as well as mission-driven programs at campuses abroad.

Touro College was chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York in June 1970. The College opened with a class of 35 Liberal Arts and Sciences students in the fall of 1971. Since 1971, the College has continued to demonstrate dynamic growth and now enrolls over 19,000 students per year in a broad range of disciplines, including business, law, social work, Jewish studies, health sciences and technology.

A Women's Division was added to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1974. In the late 1970s, a Flatbush division was established, moving into its current facility in Brooklyn in 1995. In 2000, a new Lander College for Men was established in Queens. The College also organized related institutions in Israel and Russia. The School for Lifelong Education, offering a non-traditional contract-learning-based program, was organized in 1989. The Institute for Professional Studies (IPS) was established in 1999 to provide higher education with practical applications for the Chasidic community.

Schools of general studies, law and health sciences were also organized; in the 1980s, The Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center opened, a graduate school of education and psychology was founded, and an international school of business was established. In 1985, a school for new Americans was created to serve recent immigrants to the United States, which in 2002 merged with the School of General Studies to create the New York School of Career and Applied Studies (NYSCAS).

In 1997 and 1999, respectively, Touro University California (TUC) and Touro University International (TUI, also based in California) added to the professional options available to Touro students. TUC includes colleges of osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, health sciences and education. In 2004, Touro University Nevada opened in Henderson, Nevada with colleges of osteopathic medicine, including a School of Physician Assistant Studies, and health and human services, which encompasses schools of nursing, occupational therapy and education.

Touro College Berlin - which offers both Jewish studies and professional courses, opened in 2003. Touro College Los Angeles, a liberal arts college modeled after the program of the Lander Colleges, opened in 2005 in West Hollywood, California. Touro College South, based in Miami Beach, Florida, opened in 2006. Also in 2006, Touro opened graduate schools of social work and technology. From 2007 to 2009 the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Pharmacy opened in Harlem. Touro University Worldwide was formed to offer professional degree programs online, and in 2011 New York Medical College, in Valhalla, NY, became part of the Touro family.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The Bernard Lander Collection of the Archives is organized into 20 series. Within each series, documents are arranged either chronologically or alphabetically (see detailed descriptions below). The majority of the collection is housed in archival folders within 256 archival cartons. These cartons are stored on 10 stainless steel mobile shelving units. Oversized items are stored in one of several flat boxes.

SERIES OUTLINE

- I. Accreditation
- II. Awards & Plaques
- III. Audio
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Criticism of and Opposition to Touro
- VI. Events
- VII. Faculty & Staff Information
- VIII. Finance
- IX. Institutional Records
- X. Dr. Bernard Lander's Personal Records
- XI. Legal Documents
- XII. Media Clippings
- XIII. Meetings
- XIV. Photographs
- XV. Programs
- XVI. Promotional Materials
- XVII. Publications
- XVIII. Real Estate
- XIX. Student Information
- XX. Video

SERIES NOTES AND CONTENTS

Series I: Accreditation_(to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Enrollment Figures
- Middle States
- New York State Dept. of Education
- U.S. Dept. of Education

Series III: Audio Materials (to be arr. chronologically within format)

- Cassettes
- Open Reel Tapes

Series IV: Correspondence (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Letters (includes faxes)
- Memorandums (includes faxes)
- Printouts of Emails

Series V: Criticism of and Opposition to Touro (to be arr. chronologically by topic)**Series VI: Events** (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Commencements
- Dinners/Banquets/Luncheons
- Open House
- Seminars/Lectures
- Reunions
- Workshops

Series VII: Faculty & Staff Information (to be arr. alphabetically by last name, then chronologically)

- Advertisements for Available Positions
- Business Cards
- Diaries/Appointment Books
- Faculty Writings (includes articles/speeches/books, etc.)
- Letters of Reference, Recommendations, Appointments, Resignations, Terminations, Tenure
- Resumes/CVs
- Staff Lists

Series VIII: Finance (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Budgets
- Donations & Endowments
- Fundraising

Series IX: Institutional Records (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Charters
- Electronic Media (including 3 ½" and 5 ¼" optical disks)
- Mission Statements
- Organizational Charts

- Stenography pads
- Stationery

Series X: Dr. Bernard Lander's Personal Records (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Ephemera
- Non-Touro Papers
- Pre-Touro Papers

Series XI: Legal Documents (to be arr. chronologically within subject or area)

- Lawsuits
- Real Estate Contracts
- Student Strike 1986

Series XII: Media Clippings (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Magazine Articles
- Newspaper Articles
- Printouts of Online Articles

Series XIII: Meetings (to be arr. chronologically)

- Agendas
- Minutes

Series XIV: Photographs (to be arr. chronologically within format)

- Negatives
- Prints
- Slides

Series XV: Programs: Includes proposals, research, and specific correspondence related to their establishment and operations (to be arr. chronologically within programs)

- NY Programs (only significant collections are mentioned):
 - Adult Program for Excellence (APEX)
 - General Studies
 - Health Sciences
 - Judaic Studies
 - Law School

- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- School for Lifelong Learning
- Physician's Assistant
- Retired Adults Program (RAP)
- Speech Pathology

- U.S. Locations Outside of NY:
 - California
 - Nevada
 - New Jersey

- International locations (established or proposed sites):
 - Berlin
 - China
 - Israel
 - Korea
 - Moscow
 - Taiwan
 - Turkey
 - Vienna

Series XVI: Promotional Materials (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Advertisements (print media, broadcast transcripts)
- Fliers and Mailings
- Press Releases

Series XVII: Publications (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Alumni Publications
- Books
- Catalogs & Bulletins (includes rough drafts, revisions and annotated catalogs)
- Faculty Guides
- Newsletters
- Pamphlets
- Student Guides
- Studies
- Yearbooks

Series XVIII: Real Estate (to be arr. chronologically within subseries)

- Architectural Correspondence
- Blueprints and Plans
- Drawings
- Promotional Materials
- Proposals
- Renderings

Series XIX: Student Information (to be arr. alphabetically by last name, then chronologically)

- Letters (significant recommendations, requests for assistance, applications)
- Papers and other examples of submitted work
- Profiles

Series XX: Video (to be arr. chronologically within format)

- DVDs
- VHS Tapes

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hasten, Mark. (2003). *Mark My Words: A Personal History*. Philadelphia, PA: Xlibris.

(Dr. Mark Hasten has served on Touro's Board of Trustees since 1977 and was appointed Chairman of the Board in 1996.)

Lander, Bernard. (1954). *Towards an Understanding of Juvenile Delinquency: A Study of 8,464 Cases of Juvenile Delinquency in Baltimore*. New York, NY: AMS Press.

Shmidman, Michael A. (Ed.). (2011). *Words of Inspiration-Divrei Hespel: In Memory of Harav Dr. Bernard Lander*. New York, NY: Touro College Press.

(Dr. Michael A. Shmidman has been a member of Touro's faculty and administration since 1981. He has served as dean of Touro's Graduate School of Jewish Studies since 1986, and was appointed to the Victor J. Selmanowitz Chair in Jewish History in 2003.)

Weisz, Peter. (2013). *The Lander Legacy: The Life Story of Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander*. Jersey City, NJ: KTAV Publishing House, Inc.

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

All contents of the Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander Collection have restricted access. Access to and use of any materials is subject to approval on a case-by-case basis by the Archives and Touro College Libraries.

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