

## Finding peace while working the ring

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The story in the biblical book of Genesis about Jacob wrestling with God is one of Michael Dworkis's favorites.

It figures. The story is where two interests meet for Dworkis, an observant Jew now working as an intern for World Wrestling Entertainment Inc., whose best known link to Judaism is the work of Goldberg, one of its headliners.

Dworkis, who received a bachelor's degree today from Rutgers University's School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, transferred to Rutgers from Touro College, a two-year Jewish college in Manhattan. When he arrived at Rutgers he was wrestling, so to speak, with his faith.

"In high school (at the Torah Academy of Bergen County) and college I was only exposed to the life of an Orthodox Jew. I came away with a very bad taste. School stopped and you prayed three times a day because you had to," said Dworkis.

"When I came to Rutgers I got into the real world. I wanted to make my own choices," he recalled.

Three years later he has made his choice, coming full circle and embracing the belief system of observant Jews.

At Rutgers he became involved with the work of the Chabad House, an organization for Jewish students with a building across Senior Street from the College Avenue Gymnasium.

"It was the coolest thing," said Dworkis, when he found a Jewish community among students with belief systems across the Jewish spectrum. "Nothing was forced. Rabbi (Baruch) Goodman was great to me, and I realized I liked being an observant Jew."

Goodman, the director of Chabad House, said Dworkis's circular route is not unusual. "Students come here (to Rutgers) with no intention of pursuing Jewishness - anything but. Then they realize the beliefs they grew up with is where they belong."

Dworkis became an officer in the Chabad House, and one of the student leaders at Friday services, which, according to Goodman, attract as many as 500 students.

Goodman said one of the aims of Chabad House is to prepare students for the real "real world."

"You bring your beliefs into what you do, and Michael is doing that joining the WWE, in something he loves," said Goodman.