

Michael Dworkis, Rutgers College

Glen Rock, N.J.

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Where Tradition and Tomorrow Meet

Michael Dworkis was able to realize two dreams while at Rutgers College – strengthen his strong ties to traditional Jewish culture and land his dream job in the wrestling entertainment industry.

Dworkis transferred to Rutgers two years ago from Touro College, a Jewish two-year college in Manhattan. Eager to make new friends who shared his heritage, Dworkis gravitated to Chabad House, a community center for Jewish students and faculty located on the College Avenue campus in New Brunswick.

“I needed to find my identity as an observant Jew. Until I came to Chabad House, I had doubts about my Jewish beliefs and observances,” Dworkis said.

“I found a lot of Jewish friends, not necessarily all with the same traditions, and Chabad House helped me answer a lot of questions I had about being Jewish,” he remembered. “I found that I could observe my traditions and still have a lot of fun.”

Dworkis is co-vice president and co-treasurer of the center, and is among the students who officiate at Friday services. He also coordinated many center events, including a Shabbat dinner and service for 1,000 people held in the winter of 2001.

Last fall, Dworkis realized another dream – he accepted a job in the communications office of World Wrestling Enterprises, a Stamford, Conn., company that is the largest player in the wrestling entertainment business. “I have been a wrestling fan for 13 years. I always wanted to work behind the scenes in wrestling entertainment, but never dreamed I would get this job right out of college,” he said.

Dworkis was on a university bus when he got the phone call telling him he was hired. “I lost it on the bus,” he recalled. “I started calling everyone I knew.

“Along the way, I’ve had people who told me I’d never get to where I am,” Dworkis said. “I proved all of them wrong – by making it through Rutgers and by getting hired right out of college into the job I have.”

Dworkis graduates with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass media.