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Michelle Shapiro, a graduate biochemistry major, served as an American Jewish World Service leader in the West Bank.

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Things You May Not Know about the School of Arts and Sciences

**Skilled in Science, She Found Fertile Intellectual Ground in Humanities**

Michelle Shapiro decided to pursue a degree in biochemistry.

**Q&A**

Q: What is Undergraduate Academic Affairs and how would you describe its mission?

A: Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA) is responsible for ensuring that courses are delivered in a way that meets the requirements of the university.

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**Skilled in Science, She Found Fertile Intellectual Ground in Humanities**

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HUMANITIES

At a State Prison, Professor Teaches Classics and Inspires Convicts

Emily Allen-Hornblower's lessons on tragic heroines resonate with inmates

Emily Allen-Hornblower stands before a blackboard and discusses the Homerian epic about the ancient Greek warrior Telemachus. She is teaching a course in literature at the Union County Correctional Facility, New Jersey.

In this prison, Homer's ancient epics come to life as Allen-Hornblower leads her students through a discussion of the Iliad. She explains the meaning of the word "telemachus" and the significance of the character's journey.

"The ancient Greek word "telemachus" means 'messenger of the sea' and it's a term used to describe a young hero who is on a quest for adventure," Allen-Hornblower says.

Allen-Hornblower has been teaching the course for several years and has seen her students become more engaged with the material. "I've noticed that the students are more interested in the classics when they see the relevance to their own lives," she says.

The course is part of the prison's liberal arts program and is designed to provide inmates with a better understanding of the human condition. "It's important to teach these students about the power of literature and the human spirit," Allen-Hornblower says.

But the course is also a way for Allen-Hornblower to connect with her students and help them find a sense of purpose. "It's a way to show them that they have a future and that they can make a difference," she says.

The happiness, pain, and tragedy felt by those behind bars today are not so different from the classics that Allen-Hornblower teaches. "The ancient Greek tragedies and epics speak to the human condition in ways that are still relevant today," she says.

Allen-Hornblower's teaching style is unique and engaging. "I try to make the classics accessible to everyone," she says.

Allen-Hornblower's lessons on tragic heroines resonate with inmates. "The students are fascinated by the characters and the stories," she says.

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