

## **Y'hoshua Murray**

### **Scholar, Athlete, Israelite**

Y'hoshua R. Murray: Scholar, Gentlemen, Great Athlete...and an Israelite, too! Well, of course, he is the son of Rabbi Y'hoshua Melchizedek Lewi. When I asked the rabbi “does your son use his Hebraic name Y'hoshua or the anglicized Joshua?” he said, “its Y'hoshua, just like me.” Although he was raised in Pennsylvania with his mother, Y'hoshua was ceremonially initiated into this community (and into Bnai Yisrael) on the eighth day of his birth and has proudly lived with the responsibility that comes with his name. Y'hoshua amassed a stellar record of accomplishment during his four years at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. In the classroom, on the football field, and through his civic associations, Y'hoshua exhibits the best of what it means to be an Israelite.

Y'hoshua's academic accomplishments at Edinboro include being named to the Dean's List every semester. He is the recipient of the Marjorie F. Hummell Scholarship and the Edinboro Student Government Student Association Scholarship. His athletic achievements include Edinboro University Scholar Athlete for the spring semesters of 2007, 2008, and 2009, ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American Fall 2008 and Edinboro University Offensive player of the year for 2009.

In the spring of 2008, Y'hoshua initiated the Zeta Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He has served in several positions for the chapter at Edinboro including Vice Basilius, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Basilius and Undergraduate President. Subsequently in 2009 he was awarded Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. National Scholar of the Year, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. 2<sup>nd</sup> District Scholar of the Year and he was named as the Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year.

Y'hoshua's goal is to earn a PhD history. He does careful research, examines issues with great intellectual depth, and writes with such clarity and power that his article “*Into the Promised Land*”: Outcomes of The Great Migration to Pittsburgh, 1900-1950” was presented at a professional conference and his thesis “*Southern Blacks' Migrants to Pittsburgh, 1916-1930*” will soon be published by Edinboro University Press. Y'hoshua would like his younger peers to know that his current success did not come easily. He has faced challenges and made mistakes. He has learned that people are not perfect, but G-d is. Therefore if we put our faith in the Creator and continue to believe in ourselves—even through trials and tribulations—we will always come out on top. As it says in the Torah, “The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you heed the commands of the LORD your G-d that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.” Deut 28:13

Mazel Tov Y'hoshua

