Aaron Liebman

This fellowship project builds on research that Aaron Liebman conducted many years ago as part of an undergraduate course with Dr. Alan Huffman, in which he collected examples of the English 'bare infinitive' (infinitives without 'to', from Harper Lee's novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird'). Mr. Liebman wrote a paper, presented his findings, and discussed his examples with William Diver himself and with other Columbia School linguists at the Friday morning seminar. That early contact began an interest and association (including attending summer workshops at CUNY and Rutgers and later proofreading papers for a published volume) which has continued to this day. Mr. Liebman hopes to contribute to the validation of the Probability or Likelihood System originally proposed by William Diver and developed and used for decades as a working hypothesis for English by Aaron's friend and mentor Alan Huffman.

Currently, Mr. Liebman teaches high school English including writing and grammar, informed by Columbia School theoretical orientations towards language. His students at the Yeshiva of Cleveland know him as a teacher of high expectations and a sense of humor that, given some statistical allowance, is actually funny.