The students are the beating heart of IDC Herzliya, and Mr. Gill Goshen, an alumnus of the first graduating class, is revered at IDC for his work in establishing the Student Union, which looks out for the needs of students who come to study at IDC Herzliya from all over Israel and the world.

Mr. Goshen was born in Jerusalem in 1970. After completing his high school studies at the Hebrew Gymnasium in Jerusalem, Goshen served in a special operations unit of the Israeli Air Force and was discharged with the rank of Major.

In October 1994, with the opening of IDC Herzliya, Mr. Goshen began his studies at the Harry Radzyner Law School, in the combined undergraduate degree track in law and business administration. During his studies, he became one of the founders of the IDC Herzliya Student Union, which he chaired for the first two years of its existence. He says that the beginnings were modest - the Union’s founders had no office or place to sit, and he would meet with the chairpeople of other universities’ student unions to learn about how they are run.

As the first chairman of the Student Union, Mr. Goshen worked with Prof. Reichman to create a relationship between the administration and the students that was unique in Israeli academia - one of true partnership. To this end, Goshen decided that there would be no political organizations or groups within the Student Union acting to promote their own interests that were unrelated to student affairs. Gill Goshen’s principles, which he succeeded in anchoring in the Union’s first set of regulations despite heavy internal and external resistance, are still upheld at IDC, and constitute one of the reasons behind the institution’s special character.

During the difficult period in which the first graduating class had almost completed its studies, but the Council for Higher Education had not yet granted its approval for students to receive a degree upon completing their studies, Gill Goshen’s leadership contributed a great deal to the students’ trust in IDC’s leadership and led to their cooperation in the struggle against the CHE with no sense of animosity, disappointment or bitterness.

After graduating from IDC in 1998, Mr. Goshen completed his internship at Zellerlyar, Pelossof, & Co., one of the largest and oldest law firms in Israel in the field of mergers & acquisitions and commercial law, and passed the Bar Association examinations. Following his studies, he joined the firm of Pelossof, & Co., one of the largest and oldest law firms in Israel in the field of mergers & acquisitions and commercial law, and passed the Bar Association examinations. Following his studies, he joined the firm of Pelossof, & Co., one of the largest and oldest law firms in Israel in the field of mergers & acquisitions and commercial law, and passed the Bar Association examinations.

Over the years, Mr. Goshen has acquired a reputation as an internationally renowned business development expert, and in 2012, in parallel with the continued growth of his business ventures and leading international companies in the diamond industry, Mr. Goshen founded the consulting firm Gill Goshen Consulting, which provides advice to entrepreneurs and managers at various stages of their careers, with a specialization in business development, fund raising, executive recruitment, marketing and business development.

Alongside his professional life, Mr. Goshen spends a great deal of time volunteering. From 2010 to 2013 he was President of the Life Diamonds Foundation, which he founded, and which funds activities for vulnerable communities in South Africa. Since 2013, he has been a member of the board of directors of Hut Hameshulash, a Jerusalem-based nonprofit organization that helps homeless youth.

Mr. Goshen continues to be involved in IDC Herzliya. He is a member of Friends of IDC Herzliya, and in 2016 became the first graduate to be appointed as a member of the board of IDC, where he serves as a director for this year. He is a mentor in the Alumni Association’s mentoring program, and he established the Keren Or (“Ray of Light”) program, which grants scholarships to students with strong academic potential from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

For his unique leadership as the founder and chairman of the first Student Union, for his contribution to the shaping of the concept of partnership between the students and administration of IDC Herzliya that exists to this day, and for his ongoing support of and investment in IDC Herzliya and its students, Mr. Gill Goshen is hereby awarded the Wind Annual Social Entrepreneurship Award and named an Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.