The IDC

ON THE WAY TO BECOMING ISRAEL’S
FIRST PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

IDC Herzliya receives permission to grant PHD degrees
1 in 6 students in campus receive a scholarship to enable them to study at one of IDC's ten schools. Help us to ensure that we never have to turn a student's financial request away due to lack of available funds.

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The atmosphere was euphoric as crowds of academic and administrative staff swarmed the President’s "tzrif," or office bunker, on March 20, 2018 – a day sure to go down in the annals of IDC Herzliya’s history and a story to be told with pride and a tear of joy for years to come.

24 years after the establishment of IDC Herzliya, its leadership, led by Prof. Uriel Reichman, its visionary president and founder, was overjoyed to learn that Israel’s Council for Higher Education had voted unanimously to allow IDC to bestow Ph.D. degrees. The decision followed eight long years of bureaucratic challenges and confrontations, and is the first step toward IDC Herzliya becoming Israel’s very first private university.

Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, who strongly supported the decision, made a great deal of effort to help the resolution pass, even attending the meeting himself in order to express his opinion. When he called Reichman personally on his cellphone to notify him of the CHE’s decision, he said, “This is not an act of kindness. You have earned this. You make a point of being the best in everything you do – the best in professionalism, in ethical standards, in strengthening the State of Israel, in granting scholarships to anyone who needs them. Uriel, you have truly built an institution that is a source of pride for the State of Israel.”

Bennett continued, “We are making history today. This is the first time a doctoral track will
be opened at a private college in Israel. This is good news for the academic world and for students. After a decade of foot-dragging, we have made a good decision that will diversify academic research and expand educational possibilities for students. Opening the world of research to additional institutions will enhance research at the universities, encourage more brilliant minds to continue on to advanced degrees, and lead to a quantum leap in the quality of academic research in Israel.”

Before the news was made official, those on campus who knew of the impending vote waited with bated breath for official word. Upon hearing the news, the joy was electric as jubilant IDC faculty and staff began to stream into Reichman’s office to toast the decision that had finally been reached after years of waiting. They sang a spontaneous rendition of IDC Herzliya’s anthem, as the festivities were recorded and uploaded onto social media. Dozens showed their pride in IDC by posting the news on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In a press release issued after the announcement, Reichman said, “IDC Herzliya welcomes the Council for Higher Education’s decision to allow IDC to begin the proceedings that will enable it to grant doctorate degrees. The university cartel prevented any such discussion for eight years. Only under the leadership of Naftali Bennett, chairman of the Council for Higher Education and Israel’s minister of education, did this decision come to pass. IDC Herzliya thanks Minister Bennett for his determination and insistence on the principles of academic integrity, and thanks the professional leadership of the Council for Higher Education, specifically Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats and Prof. Ido Perlman. Today we also wish to express our appreciation to the friends and faculty of IDC, as well as to our students and alumni, for their partnership and trust over the years.”

Bennett was hosted at IDC for a festive gathering before the Passover holiday. Addressing IDC faculty and staff, he said, “Many see academia as an ‘ivory tower’ completely detached from Israeli society. IDC Herzliya is not an ‘ivory tower’ but rather a beacon – an incredible Israeli and Zionist center with uncompromising academic excellence. It is important for me to say to the Council for Higher Education and to my friends at the universities: Not only must we approve this process and encourage IDC Herzliya, but we can learn a few things from it as well.”

Reichman thanked Bennett for his “unbiased stance, not driven by political considerations. You fought for academic integrity, just governance and academic liberty, against the very institutions that should represent these exact values – the universities,” he said. “Today, we celebrate not only our own personal breakthrough, but also the national significance of academic entrepreneurship in the State of Israel. Academic entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of scientific discovery. Such initiative and independence lead us all forward as a society and as a people, and it must be protected.”

The first Ph.D. program to be launched will be in law, with others set to follow in quick succession.

Prof. Alex Mintz, IDC’s provost, said: “IDC will soon be applying to open doctoral tracks in computer science, psychology, government, and business administration. These applications will be reviewed by an international committee of experts appointed by the Council for Higher Education, and we are confident that these committees will be impressed by the excellent quality of our schools, faculty members and proposed courses.”

“Uriel, you have truly built an institution that is a source of pride for the State of Israel.”

— Naftali Bennett, Israeli Minister of Education
The Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts presented Prof. Uriel Reichman, IDC’s president and founder, with the Robert and JoAnn Bendetson Public Diplomacy Award in April. The award is part of the Bendetson Public Diplomacy Initiative, which brings global leaders and entrepreneurs to Tufts to share their experiences and perspectives with students. It recognizes eminent intellectuals and practitioners from around the world who have excelled in their efforts to promote reconciliation, redress inequities in the world, and create environments that support the search for common ground. Former award recipients include Haider Al-Abadi, prime minister of Iraq; Thomas Geisel, mayor of Düsseldorf; and David E. Sanger, chief Washington correspondent for the New York Times.

The awards committee stated that Reichman was chosen as this year’s recipient due to his “extraordinary leadership in establishing and building IDC Herzliya, emblematic of the spirit of the award.”

The relationship between IDC and Tufts developed when Prof. Richard Shultz, director of the International Security Studies Program at Tufts University’s flagship institution, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, taught a course during the summer of 2017 in the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy’s M.A. program. Shultz, who supervised Lauder School faculty member Prof. Assaf Moghadam’s Ph.D. dissertation at Tufts, was deeply impressed with IDC’s innovative spirit. Upon his return to Tufts, he shared his experience with the university’s...
leadership, including high-ranking officials of the Institute for Global Leadership. On hearing what Shultz had to say, they nominated Reichman for the Bendetson Public Diplomacy Award. Noting how much IDC and Fletcher had in common, Shultz and Moghadam began planning cooperation between the schools. This began with Reichman’s visit to Tufts in April, during which he was accompanied by Moghadam; Jonathan Davis, IDC’s vice president for external relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School; Prof. Boaz Ganor, dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy, & Strategy; and Leslie Skyba, executive director of American Friends of IDC.

Like IDC Herzliya, the Institute for Global Leadership prepares new generations of critical thinkers for effective and ethical leadership. Skyba, executive director of American Friends of IDC.

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“The institute’s mission aligns with the vision of IDC Herzliya.” – Prof. Abi Williams, director of the Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University

starting with its establishment almost 25 years ago. At the request of the Fletcher School’s dean, Admiral James Stavridis (former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe), Reichman described the excellent work of IDC’s Adelson School of Entrepreneurship.

Prior to the awards dinner, Reichman spent the day meeting with key figures and faculty members at Tufts, including Stavridis and Prof. Anthony Monaco, president of Tufts University, with whom he discussed the future of the growing cooperation between Tufts and IDC Herzliya.

–Ariel Rodal-Spieler

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“Like IDC Herzliya, the Institute for Global Leadership prepares new generations of critical thinkers for effective and ethical leadership.” – Ariel Rodal-Spieler
In Memoriam: Gerald B. Cramer, z”l

IDC Herzliya mourns the loss of a long-time friend and staunch supporter.

The IDC Herzliya family lost a dear friend this past February when Gerald B. Cramer, known to those close to him as Gerry – entrepreneur, philanthropist, and inspiration to many – passed away in Miami Beach at the age of 87. Cramer had a long and wonderful marriage to his great love, Daphna Neuwirth Raskin Cramer.

Cramer and his family have been devoted supporters of IDC Herzliya for many years; he served as the Chairman of the American Friends of IDC, and the Cramer Family was the first to establish a partnership between IDC and Gerry’s alma mater Syracuse University. The Cramers have also donated generously towards IDC student scholarships, named one of the new dormitory towers, and have been long-time supporters of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism.

“Gerry was a true friend, a Zionist and a staunch supporter of IDC Herzliya.” – Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya

Happiest with Daphna at his side, he loved mentoring young people, sharing wisdom on business and life. He captured his perspective poignantly in his memoir, Bullish on Life, in which he shared his life and investment experiences.

Cramer contributed to many causes that were close to his heart. In addition to his involvement in IDC Herzliya, he served as vice-chairman of Syracuse University’s Board of Trustees and was a major benefactor of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. In June 2004, he was chosen as the first recipient of the Maxwell School Horizon Award (now named the Cramer Horizon Award), which was established to recognize inspirational volunteer leadership combined with exceptional philanthropic commitment. He also made an impact in medicine and the arts as a benefactor of the Sheba Medical Center, Mount Sinai and Montefiore Hospitals, and the National Dance Institute.

“I considered Gerry a personal friend and mentor,” said Prof. Boaz Ganor, executive director of ICT and dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy. “Gerry cared about Israel very much and contributed to its safety by helping the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, training hundreds of students at the Lauder School, and establishing strategic cooperation between IDC and Syracuse University. He wasn’t just a philanthropist, he was a ‘startup-ist’. Following his heart, wisdom and extensive experience, he initiated and supported projects that contributed to Israel, the United States and all of Western society. I loved and admired Gerry, and I miss him very much.”

Jonathan Davis, IDC’s vice president for External Relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School, said, “Gerry was a man of integrity, a warm and kind soul, always with a good word to say and a great sense of humor. I was personally inspired over the years by his leadership, love of country, Zionism, and his care for students on both sides of the ocean. Without individuals such as he, we would not be where we are today. God bless dear Gerry and may he rest in peace. God bless his dear family.”

Cramer is survived by his wife Daphna, his six children, and 14 grandchildren.

Born in New York to Lithuanian parents, Cramer was the first in his family to attend college. After earning a degree in accounting from the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University and attending the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business, he joined the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, serving as a lieutenant on the USS Crook County LST-61. After his term of service, Cramer launched a successful 50-year career as an investment manager. He was a managing director of GOM Capital and a co-founder and chair emeritus of the investment advisory firm Cramer, Rosenthal & McGlynn, where he held overall responsibility for the firm’s investment policy. He was also associated with the investment brokerage houses of Oppenheimer & Co., where he was a senior partner, and Merrill Lynch. Cramer retired in 2010 to pursue private ventures.

“Following his heart, wisdom and extensive experience, he initiated and supported projects that contributed to Israel, the United States and all of Western society.” – Prof. Boaz Ganor, executive director of ICT and dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy
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One-third of the world’s crops depend on pollination by bees in order to thrive. But because of a mysterious ailment called Colony Collapse Disorder, which has tripled the rate of dying bees since 2006 – U.S. beekeepers have reported losses of almost 40 percent of their bees – global food security is under threat.

This is just the kind of twenty-first-century environmental challenge that IDCBeyond, IDC’s Presidential Program, aims to tackle.

A part-time, year-long graduate level program for entrepreneurial leadership and impact, IDCBeyond is designed to empower participants to develop and launch innovative ventures to help solve twenty-first-century global challenges in the fields of technology, sustainability, globalization and biomedicine.

The English-language program brings together local and international students from various disciplines who want to make an impact on the world.

“Students don’t have to have an idea coming into the program,” said Amir Lewkowicz, managing director of IDC Hub and IDCBeyond. “We are looking for talented and passionate people from different disciplines.”

The program focuses on three areas, including identifying the challenges where students meet with experts from various fields; venture creation where students are able to practice hands-on tools such as building legal and financial strategies and product development;

IDCBeyond Students Empower Beekeepers with Innovative Technology

IDC’s Presidential Program: Facing 21st-Century Challenges

IDCBeyond

IDC HERZLIYAN SPRING 2018
Among the projects that have emerged from the values in life,” said Roizman. “IDCBeyond gave us the courage to go ahead.” Mentoring played an important role in helping them reach their end product, she said. “The whole environment at IDC is really open-minded and we felt we had the support we needed,” said Roizman. “IDCBeyond took us by the hand and guided us from first-stage brainstorming to end product.”

One-third of the world’s crops depend on pollination by bees in order to thrive.

“While other agricultural fields have gone into precision agriculture, beekeepers still use the same centuries-old techniques while struggling with the modern day problems of urbanization, monoculture, pesticides and parasites,” said Kanot, whose own connection with the beekeeping world was the impetus for BeeHero. His father, a beekeeper, is the head of the Israel Beekeepers’ Association.

BeeHero’s technology allows commercial beekeepers to strengthen their colonies and farmers to increase their yields by at least 15 percent.

“Bees are having so much trouble surviving that without beekeepers helping them, we would not have bees at all,” said Kanot. He noted that the situation in Israel is not as dire as in other countries.

Honey, a byproduct of beekeeping, is a source of income for beekeepers. Farmers need strong bee colonies to help pollinate their crops. Bees need both pollen and honey to survive. If there is not enough honey, bees do not have enough food, and beekeepers cannot harvest the honey, which means a decrease in their income.

“Each one of us joined the program to find our next challenge and do something meaningful. We came to be a team not because of a specific idea but because of similar core values in life,” said Roizman. “IDCBeyond gave us the courage to go ahead.”

IDCBeyond is designed to empower participants to develop and launch innovative ventures to help solve twenty-first-century global challenges.

“We want to help keep beekeeping profitable. Otherwise there won’t be any beekeepers, and we won’t have any bees,” said Kanot.

BeeHero helps beekeepers maintain strong beehive colonies, which also increases crop yield for farmers.

Once inserted inside the hive, BeeHero collects in-hive data and environmental information, and uses its own AI algorithm to analyze the data and recognize patterns of beehive disorders in their early stages.

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According to the team, BeeHero’s technology allows commercial beekeepers to strengthen their colonies and farmers to increase their yields by at least 15 percent.

“Everything is online and is very simple,” said Roizman. “The idea is to make the beekeepers our partners. Farmers who have crops that need bee pollination will get into our network, say where and what kind of crop they have, and they will get pollination services from stronger, healthier bee colonies.”

BeeHero’s founders have completed their proof of concept, in which they were able to identify developing problems 99 percent of the time, Roizman said. In mid-April they began a nationwide pilot project throughout Israel, and they hope to expand the pilot internationally as well.

“IDCBeyond made it possible to chase this vision,” said Roizman.

– Judith Sudilovsky
Promoting Jewish Life and Community at IDC Herzliya

With 30 percent of the student body on campus originating from more than 80 different countries around the world, IDC Herzliya Raphael Recanati International School seeks to provide a home-like atmosphere for its students that includes TLC in all parts of student life.

As the number of students who wish to continue their traditional Jewish practices and lifestyles has increased in recent years, IDC Herzliya has risen to the challenge, providing them with a comfortable environment for doing so.

The Raphael Recanati International School’s Social and Cultural Department provides a variety of extracurricular activities ranging from sporting events such as the kayaking club, to the Ambassador’s Club, which aims to influence a new generation of leaders to make the case for Israel, and much more. It also aims to introduce international students to the diversity of Israeli culture. “We work to make sure that our international students are introduced to and become comfortable with the Israeli way of life,” says Or-Lee Kaidar, RRIS Social and Cultural Affairs Coordinator.

Under the Social and Cultural department’s umbrella, IDC Hillel and the off-campus OU-JLIC, which falls under the purview of IDC Hillel, conduct religious and traditional Jewish activities. IDC caters to all Jewish students who come from diverse backgrounds and traditions, so every single student feels that he or she belongs.

There is also a strong emphasis on regular interaction between the veteran Israeli and International students. Jonathan Davis, vice president for External Relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School, says, “It is extremely important to make these students feel at home every day of the week.”

Joint events with Israeli students, special trips around the country and getting to know Israel’s rich history, culture and beautiful landscapes,
celebrating the holidays and holding regular Shabbat dinners throughout the year on campus build exciting experiences and memories that last a lifetime.

Maya Zrachya, director of IDC Hillel, says, “Long-term programs with Hillel Israel and Hillel International have been developed to introduce students from around the world and deal with issues of Jewish identity and engagement with Israel.” Davis says: “Quite a few things have evolved – the daily Mincha/Maariv Club, a prayer room with two Torah scrolls (Ashkenazi and Sephardi) available 24/7, a tallit and tefillin for those who may not have their own, and regular shiurim on and off campus.”

Since the creation of the international school, the IDC Hillel-RRIS Shabbat dinners have become legendary as more than two hundred students return to campus on Friday evening for candle-lighting, a traditional prayer service, Kiddush and a warm, inviting Shabbat meal with their fellow students.

Additional activities include holiday events, a weekly class in Talmud and Jewish law, a Beit Midrash in French and an annual Shabbaton that is planned to be held twice a year.

Special events to strengthen the Jewish-Israel connection are also held throughout the year. The Continually Interpreting series provides participants with a unique way to explore Israel-Jewish connection through lectures, tours and movies. Zionism 2.0, connects Jewish communities around the world and, includes trips all over Israel and cooking workshops.

This year marks an exciting time for IDC as the Orthodox Union’s Seif Jewish Learning Initiatives on Campus (JLIC) was invited to launch its first chapter in Israel with IDC as the address and under IDC Hillel’s umbrella.

JLIC’s partnership with Hillel brings a sense of sustainable community and family to the student body, further increasing IDC’s ability to provide programming to suit a wide population. Typical activities include inspirational workshops, challah bakes, prayer services, daily havrutot, or partner learning sessions, topical Torah-related classes, and weekly communal Shabbat experiences that feature indoor meals around a Shabbat table or a picnic in the park.

Most of the activities that these organizations offer are made possible by generous gifts by friends and supporters who earmark their funding for specific activities. Some of these friends have children who study at IDC and wish to help encourage traditional Jewish life on campus.

Zrachya says, “We work together to make sure that all students on campus can find a place to feel at home during their time in Israel.”

Several students have already chosen to move to the Herzliya area to become part of the evolving community.

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“‘We work to make sure that our international students are introduced to and become comfortable with the Israeli way of life.’” – Or-Lee Kaidar, RRIS Social and Cultural Affairs Coordinator

A class on adultery and idolatry in the Talmud taught by Rav Josh Botwinick.

Lag ba’Omer with student soldiers telling of their experiences during their IDF service.

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JLIC IDC is led by Rabbi Josh and Margot Botwinick, who have extensive educational and communal experience. The response to their arrival has been overwhelming. “In just a few months, hundreds of students have been deeply involved, with most of them attending events three to five times a week. It’s been incredible.” said Margot.

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A Celebration of Zionism at IDC

Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut at IDC Herzliya.

Zionism is one of the foundations upon which IDC Herzliya was built. Its leadership emphasize an unapologetic connection with and love for the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Israel’s national anthem, ‘Hatikva,’ is sung at every graduation ceremony; a special memorial plaque at the center of the campus commemorates fallen IDF soldiers (students and alumni); and public diplomacy programs are given special attention.

The Raphael Recanati International School boasts a dedicated Social and Cultural Department that provides a variety of opportunities for the school’s students, who come from more than 80 countries, to experience Israel, fall in love with it, and interact with veteran Israelis. These include the annual orientation trip to the south for first-year students, an annual night tour in the north and international and Israeli sporting competitions and clubs. The Social and Cultural Department works alongside IDC-Hillel and the newly established JLIC.

Among all the festivals and special days that occur throughout the year, the ten days from Yom Hashoah through Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha’atzmaut are particularly moving.

Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day

In addition to the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony organized by the Student Union, RRIS students were invited to join an annual visit to Yad Vashem, where Holocaust survivor Ruth Belinger shared her story. IDC-Hillel, in collaboration with the RRIS and JLIC, also held a Zikaron Besalon (storytelling in the sitting room) in which Bracha Rager, the grandmother of Maya Zrachya, director of IDC-Hillel, told her story to more than 100 students who crowded in to listen. This was followed by a moving Shabbat dinner with ten Holocaust survivors in attendance.

Visit to Yad Vashem with Holocaust survivor Ruth Belinger.

Zikaron Besalon (storytelling in the sitting room) with Holocaust survivor Bracha Rager, the grandmother of Maya Zrachya, director of IDC-Hillel.
Yom Hazikaron – Remembrance for Israel’s Fallen Soldiers and Terror Victims

On Yom Hazikaron, Prof. Uriel Reichman, IDC president and founder, shared his own life story of loss and grief with a group of students and staff. Prof. Reichman spoke in the garden named for his brother, Gadi Reichman z”l, who lost his life in battle during the Yom Kippur War.

We took a full bus of students and staff to the MASA ceremony on the eve of Yom Hazikaron. During the ceremony, speakers shared stories of lone soldiers who fell in the operations in Gaza and the Second Lebanon War, and in terror attacks.

Yom Ha’atzmaut – Israel’s Independence Day

The Student Union, IDC-Hillel and the RRIS Social and Cultural Department held their first Yom Ha’Atzmaut festival on campus with a barbecue, carnival games, Israeli music and a great deal of blue-and-white Israeli pride. We look forward to making this festival an annual campus tradition.

The JLIC Shabbat Committee held a spectacular Shabbat event with Zionism as its theme. The participants sang parts of the Friday night service to classical Israeli tunes. Rav Josh, who gave a talk about the significance of the Israeli flag in religious life, addressed the question of whether the flag belongs in synagogues. He discussed the philosophies of Rabbi Joseph B. Solovitchik and Rav Abraham Isaac Hacohen Kook and reflected on their significance in our lives. The photo, which was taken after Havdalah, features the students who remained after the conclusion of Shabbat.
Kenneth Cole learned an important business lesson while volunteering on Kibbutz Anavim in Israel 40 years ago. He spent a summer there, getting up at 4 a.m. every day to pick peaches. "That summer, I learned that there are no shortcuts," said Cole. "If you produce, you reap the rewards."

The legendary American shoe designer and entrepreneur relayed this experience during a visit to IDC Herzliya to meet with students from the Radzyner Law School’s Gladstone-Nir Legal Clinic for Startups. In Israel with his family for a personal visit, Cole made IDC his first stop after getting off the plane. "Something we at Kenneth Cole have in common with IDC’s legal aid clinics is that we care not only about establishing a successful business, but about corporate social responsibility and helping those who are less fortunate," said Cole.

Cole conveyed some of the important business lessons he learned over his successful career, which has spanned 35 years. "Continue to find new ways to address the same customer," he said. “Fashion has become democratized. We used to have to wait six months for fashions to come to New York from Milan and Paris. Now it’s accessible to everyone everywhere, in real time, and design is ubiquitous.” In the past, he said, the designer worked to establish his or her own brand. Now, "everybody is their own brand – they curate their own brand on their Facebook page, their Twitter feed, their Instagram. In the past the designer was delivering a monologue – I was telling people how they should introduce themselves to the world. Now it’s a dialogue, and those who have learned how to listen are those who are successful. So now my hope is that people will let me become part of their brand.” Cole said that this dialogue happens online, and that there has been a shift from brick and mortar stores to digital user experience.

“The best solution is rarely the most expensive one, but is probably the most creative one,” said Cole, describing the manner in which he launched
his business. He wanted to display his first shoe collection at the biggest shoe exhibition at the time, which took place at the Hilton Hotel in New York. Unable to afford the rent for the room he needed to display his shoes at the hotel, he got resourceful: he borrowed a truck and got permission to park it outside the hotel for a few days by changing his company name to Kenneth Cole Productions, Inc., and filing for a license to shoot the fictitious movie *The Birth of a Shoe Company*. Over those few days, he met every important buyer in New York and sold 40,000 pairs of shoes from the truck.

"What you wear is not as important as of what you are aware" is one of Cole's mantras, along with "What you stand for is more important than what you stand in." Cole is a strong believer in using the platform one has to make a difference. "I believe that community and business are interdependent and interconnected," he said. "According to the Jewish teaching of tzedakah, giving back is not only an obligation, it's a privilege. At the beginning of my career, my thinking was 'Do well, make a lot of money, and someday find a way to give back,' but the reality is that the notion of giving back needs to be part of the journey." Beginning in the 1980s, Cole took on AIDS awareness as his main cause, and became the chair of American Foundation for AIDS Research in 2004. Throughout his career, Cole has also promoted other causes, such as support for homeless people and banning the use of real fur in the fashion industry. Speaking about his charity work, Cole said, "It changed me, the brand… everything felt more meaningful, more substantive. I love that I've been able to bring the business to the point that it can do what it does."

"If you can see what's missing, you'll differentiate yourself," said Cole. "Every day I look at my closet and ask myself, 'What do I wish was here?' and then I go and make it. Find that white space and fill it. That's where the opportunity is."

After his lecture, Cole held an intimate question-and-answer session with members of the Gladstone-Nir Legal Clinic of the Radzyner School. The clinic, run by Assaf Ben-David, adv., is working on technology-related business ventures.

About 300 students participate in the Radzyner School’s 13 clinics. Every law student is required to take part in a clinic during his or her studies. The clinics’ aim is to provide legal aid to disempowered groups and individuals. Through the clinics, the students provide legal assistance to the poor, youth, prisoners, migrant workers and refugees in a variety of fields ranging from employment law to administrative proceedings, housing rights and welfare. There are also unique clinics that focus on international humanitarian law and capital markets. The Gladstone-Nir Clinic is the only clinic that provides legal assistance to startup ventures initiated by minorities and individuals in Israel’s periphery.

"The resilience and fortitude of Israelis is extraordinary," Cole told the students. "It's amazing how many entrepreneurs come out of this country, and the impact you as a nation have made. I love that Entrepreneurship is a major here at IDC – I don't know anywhere else where that's the case."

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
From IDC Herzliya to the US Navy: Alumna Lt. Tali Hadar
From the island paradise of Guam, Lt. Tali Hadar, DMD looks back fondly on her days as a business student at the Raphael Recanati International School.

IDC alumna Lt. Tali Hadar never imagined her life taking her to Guam or into the Navy. But her time as an RRIS business student at IDC expanded her horizons to options she would have never considered otherwise.

“IDC gave me the foundations and confidence to pursue my dreams,” said Hadar, who began her academic career studying business at the Recanati International School. “IDC has it all: a world-class faculty, the ability to study in English, a diverse student body – and all this in Israel, just minutes from the beach.”

During her studies, she took advantage of the opportunity IDC affords students to spend a semester abroad through its student exchange program, which enables students to enrich their university experience at various international institutions of higher learning.

Hadar, who came to Israel from the United States when she was 10 years old, took advantage of the exchange program to study in the U.S. She was accepted to the semester exchange program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

With several semesters of business studies at IDC already under her belt, Hadar rose to the challenge of Wharton’s demanding program. Bolstered by those experiences, she began to challenge herself to explore professional options that were more suited to her newly-discovered interest in combining a medical career with helping people.

Hadar’s future career plan coalesced as she completed her studies at RRIS. She realized that she wanted to continue her studies in dentistry in order to provide medical services to people in underserved communities around the world.

“I realized that this was the ideal path for me,” she said.

After graduating from IDC, Hadar returned to Philadelphia to continue her studies in the pre-med post-baccalaureate program. She prepared to apply to dental school while working as an office manager at a pediatric dental clinic.

Hadar, who had served for two years in the Israeli army as a sergeant in the personnel protection unit, joined the U.S. Navy, where she found funding for her dental school studies through the U.S. Navy’s Health Professions Scholarship Program.

After graduating dental school with officer’s rank, Hadar was assigned to her first duty station in San Diego, California. During her service there, she was chosen to participate in a year-long residency program of advanced education in general dentistry. It was on that program that she met her husband, Tony.

Hadar and Tony now live at Hadar’s second duty station in Guam, where she often combines the skills that she learned as a student at RRIS with the various experiences that come with her job. In a single week, she assisted with dental procedures on a military service dog, attended an advanced trauma life-support course, and traveled to Tokyo for a dental conference.

As Hadar continues to fulfill her dream of working, through the U.S. Navy, with people who are most in need of her skills as a dentist, she says that she would like to open her own dental clinic one day. She is confident that she will put the business skills she gained at RRIS to good use as she builds her business and continues following her passion of helping people.

“IDC is proud to offer opportunities for students to grow as individuals and gain interdisciplinary skills.” - Jonathan Davis, vice president for External Relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School.

While at IDC, Hadar was accepted to the semester exchange program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
Inge Ginsberg (right), long-time RRIS scholarship supporter, with her daughter Marion Daniela.

From left: Maung Maung Lynn, ambassador of Myanmar, and his wife, Khin Lay Mu, parents of Shwe Eain Lynn (2nd year, business); Prof. Uriel Reichman; Sharon and Larry Finegold, Ambassador’s Club supporters; and Or-Lee Kaidar, RRIS social and cultural affairs coordinator.

from left. Lala and Artur Susskind, Jaqueline, Alexander and Talia Rosenkrantz, Maia Rosenfeld and her mother, Natalie. Talia and Maia are both 2nd year Communications students.
International School

Jonathan Davis and Benjamin Peng, GMBA student, carrying his newborn son.

Emily Nagar (1st year Psychology), with her father, Avi.

Pierre Besnainou, chairman of IDC Herzliya’s International Friends, Staci Light Recanati and Oudi Recanati, chairman of IDC Herzliya’s Board of Directors.

Jonathan Davis (center) with Tamar Morali (3rd year Communications) and her sister, Raquelle. Tamar was a contestant for the Miss Germany 2018 title.

Mike Burstyn, Israeli-American actor, with his wife, Cyona.

The staff of the Raphael Recanati International School.
Well, hello, everybody. It’s a beautiful day today, and I have the honor and privilege to welcome you on behalf of the parents, and though I know during our time together today, many of us will get to meet new people, I have been asked to speak a little about how our family became part of the IDC family and my son’s experiences studying here.

My name is Anna Woloski Wruble, and I am the proud mom of Yonatan Michael Wruble, a second-year business student in the Raphael Recanati International School of IDC in Herzliya. As a child of Holocaust survivors and a mother of five children, life has always taken on a certain urgency and importance, especially when it comes to education and personal development. Each child, after all, is a raw gem to be encouraged and empowered to be the best person they can be, for themselves and as part of a nation rebuilding itself.

Yonatan Michael, or Yoni, is our fourth child. My husband, Rabbi Moshe Wruble, hails from Exeter, Pennsylvania, and I myself am a Jersey City girl. When he was younger, I used to tell him, as I did all my children: You may be the fourth child born, but you’re the first and only one in your age group, making you Number One. Every child has his or her unique characteristics. Yoni has been his own man, marching to his own drummer, since birth. He is a study in duality, hilariously funny and witty and yet extremely sensitive; easygoing and yet very focused; a person who works hard and also plays hard.

After high school, where Yoni’s major was in the arts, he spent a year in Mechinat Keshet, a pre-army religious military academy. He then served in a highly specialized unit of a commando division called Egoz. During his very active service, he was a medic in three major IDF operations, being part of some of the most difficult excursions the country has had to tolerate in recent years in its attempt to protect itself.

As a mother, we want our children to be healthy, happy, and be the person they were meant to be. We tend to love those who love our children and work for them towards success.
At the end of his service, he traveled briefly, but made the decision that he did not want to put off his professional pursuits, he wanted to “start life,” “be part of the world.” But what to study, and where?

Yoni always had a business sense, whether he was selling his Purim candy to make pocket money in middle school, reading the financial section of the newspaper, or encouraging us to invest in real estate that he determined was a good investment (we should have listened to him). He has a natural business sense. So when he chose business as his major, we were not at all surprised.

Yoni truly found himself in the business department. He committed himself to working and studying very hard, even forgoing family and social events to keep up with his studies. He helped others in courses he excelled in, and found and financed for himself tutors in courses where he felt he could use additional support, not only working towards the grade but working towards a deeper understanding of the material which he knew would be vital to his future success.

Yoni has often expressed feeling so connected to IDC, so proud to be part of this institution, that he was compelled to take on roles and projects outside of the classroom as well. As class representative, his social life included meeting the scholastic and campus needs of his classmates and being the liaison between the institution and the students. He developed a project, known in different forms around the world, called People of IDC, offering him a broader meeting of the minds with students across campus, leading him most naturally to work in the marketing department.

These experiences reached their apex when once again, IDC got professional and personal at the same time, noticing the individual student, encouraging that personal growth. Yoni was recently informed that from the entire student body, his application for a special overseas semester experience was approved, and he will be the IDC student studying at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, which has a global reputation for excellence, leadership, and innovation in business.

As a mother, we want our children to be healthy, happy, and be the person they were meant to be. We tend to love those who love our children and work for them towards success. Recently, IDC has received the coveted status of university, the only private university in the country, a status that shows its recognized excellence both nationally and internationally. IDC is the epitome of the Startup Nation: creative, innovative, forging ahead with great awareness of where we have come from. But for me, the fact that my son is happily studying in a place that he is proud of, in a place that has given him a wonderful education and broad opportunities in and out of the classroom, in a place that has given him friend-

IDC is the epitome of the Startup Nation: creative, innovative, forging ahead with great awareness of where we have come from.

Now where to study? Yoni always looks for the best, so it was no surprise here, either, that he would look for the best education, the most knowledgeable faculty, and the most active student life. He worked the whole year after the army and before college to be able to assist in financing his educational goals... and ultimately, he chose the Raphael Recanati International School of IDC. We – and he – were so proud the day he received his acceptance notice. He was pumped and psyched and was going to make this the most important years of his life till now.

And what an experience it has been! From child to soldier to collegiate, IDC has given Yoni the tools to reach his goals and the foundation for his life’s pursuits.

The opportunities on campus have been endless. Yoni cannot hold back his love and respect for the faculty, having developed close relationships with many of them, a unique aspect of IDC. Super men and women in their field of interest who also possess a true love of education and know how important it is to see each student for what they are and empower them to grow and be the best they can be. Yoni has told us numerous times how he feels blessed to be in class with this sterling lineup of educators.

In addition, Yoni joined the debating team, a fantastic framework for learning the many facets of pressing issues and honing both your language skills and professional discussion capabilities. Yoni entered with English skills that were that fine mix of an Israeli child born to American parents. Yet through his studies and debate team skills, he has enriched his language and improved his writing skills to be on par with international higher-education standards.

IDC has given Yoni the tools to reach his goals and the foundation for his life’s pursuits.

IDC HERZLIYAN SPRING 2018
Israel and International Friends of IDC Herzliya Gather to Learn about the Israeli Art Market

Roni Gilat-Baharaff, managing director of Christie’s Israel, gave a fascinating overview of a century of Israeli art.

Israel Friends of IDC and International Friends of IDC joined together to enjoy a lecture by Roni Gilat-Baharaff, managing director of Christie’s Israel and a specialist in twentieth-century art, who spoke about the art market in Israel from 1906 to 2017.

The evening, which was sponsored by the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Herzliya, began with dinner and drinks, which enabled IDC supporters from all over the world to mingle with IDC faculty and representatives of the Israeli art community.

The first part of Gilat-Baharaff’s lecture, which included slides of the works of art she discussed, focused on the historical development of Israeli art.

“The value of a piece of art is dependent on three things – the market, the time of the sale, and the work itself,” she said. “The Israeli market is unique because it’s very young, only having started in the twentieth century. The man considered the father of Israeli art was Boris Schatz, who founded the Bezalel School in Jerusalem. He was a visionary who believed that he could create a new Israeli style. The collection he put together eventually became the nucleus of the Israel Museum.”

According to Gilat-Baharaff, each wave of immigration to Israel brought new artists, collectors, and dealers, who made their contribution to the scene. “The 1920s represented the peak of Israeli art, with lots of shows taking place at Migdal David in Jerusalem and the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium in Tel Aviv,” she said. “Reuven Rubin was perhaps the artist most associated with the 1920s. His work is intertwined with the history of Tel Aviv. Rubin and many of the other artists of this time, including Nachum Gutman, really identified with the Zionist ideal. Works by these artists are sought-after and command high prices.”

In 1948, the artist Joseph Zaritzky, an important figure in Israeli art, founded a group called New Horizons. “They wanted to create something new, modern, international,” said Gilat-Baharaff. “They had their own gallery – the Israel Gallery founded by Sam Dubiner.”

During the 1960s, the Israel Museum and Tel Aviv Museum were opened, and in 1989, Sotheby’s had their first auction, with Christie’s following suit in 1994. “This offered exposure for Israeli artists abroad, and an opportunity for international artists to be shown in Israel,” said Gilat-Baharaff.

The latter part of the lecture focused on the international and the Israeli art market. “Since the 2000s, what characterizes the international market is fast-forward movement, a real passion...
for contemporary art, and prices like we’ve never
seen before,” said Gilat-Baharaff. “Rothkos, Picassos, Modiglianis, and Warhols began commanding hundreds of millions of shekels, legitimizing the spending of huge amounts of money on masterpieces. The last Da Vinci on the market, a trophy piece, sold for 400 million at Christie’s. We haven’t seen this yet on the Israeli market. The highest price for an Israeli piece was $821,000 in New York City. A painting

“The highest auction price for an Israeli [art] piece was $821,000 in New York City.”
– Roni Gilat-Baharaff

by Yaacov Agam [who attended the event] sold for about $600,000.”

Gilat-Baharaff said that much of the art trade today takes place at fairs, and that, of course, the Internet has accelerated the sale of art and has made a huge difference to the art market.

“If we approach the 25th anniversary of IDC, all of us realize that without our friends and donors, we would not be here today.”
– Jonathan Davis, IDC’s vice president for External Relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School

After dessert and coffee, the guests were invited to tour the IDC Herzliya grounds to see all of the works of art and on-loan antiquities with which Prof. Uriel Reichman, IDC’s president and founder, has adorned the campus.

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
I’ll start with the good news – good news doesn’t make the headlines,” said Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilead, executive director of IDC Herzliya’s Institute for Policy and Strategy and chairman of the Annual Herzliya Conference Series, at an event for Israeli friends and supporters of IDC.

Gilead began the lecture, entitled “Between the Light and the Shadows: The Middle East – Quo Vadis?” by talking about some outcomes of the Arab Spring that he referred to as “miracles.” “Firstly, all of the traditional monarchies survived the Arab Spring – Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, and so on. The second miracle was the fall of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt so quickly after its rise, which also led to the crumbling of the alliance between Egypt and Turkey. If that alliance had remained, we would be in a much worse situation. Another miracle is that ISIS planted themselves in Sinai, which led to Egyptian and Israeli security forces cooperating. Now our relations with Cairo are very tight. Sisi has become an asset for us.”

Gilead, former director of the Policy and Political-Military Affairs Bureau at the Defense Ministry, said that we are in a time of challenges, but also of unforeseen cooperation with Arab states. “Because of our common enemies, we have found common ground with many Arab countries,” he said. In other good news, he said, “Israel is experiencing a very low level of terror due to deterrence along the border and the successful thwarting of attempted attacks.”

Now for the bad news: Gilead assessed that chances for an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement are slim. “Abu Mazen, despite his lack of love for us, does not think that terrorism is good for the Palestinians. But he will not rule forever, and the common ground of his potential heirs is their choice of violence as the path forward.”

Regarding the chances of regional peace, Gilead said, “I don’t think the Arab states will make peace with us outwardly, publicly, without the Palestinians, because they care about public opinion in their countries, which have the ability to overthrow them.”

Iran, said Gilead, is the only threat to Israel that has the potential to be an existential one. “The Iranian view of the so-called Iran deal is that in
eight years’ time, they will have the right to build a nuclear weapon with the blessing of the U.S.,” he said. “The reason this would be so terrible is that the regime is ideologically committed to Israel’s destruction. Moreover, the Arabs hate the Iranians so much that there is no way they will let them have nuclear weapons if they don’t. So the whole neighborhood will become nuclear. Our security situation is currently satisfactory, but if Iran and our neighbors gain nuclear capabilities, things will worsen.”

Regarding the situation to Israel’s north, Gilead said, “While ISIS is almost completely defeated, Iran, Assad, and Hezbollah are replacing it. They’re building a base on the Golan Heights. We are able to deter them and that’s why it’s quiet there. But we can’t deter them from building up strength. Our army has to be very strong, and we need alliances.”

The evening was sponsored by Wissotzky, and moderated by Gili Dinstein, IDC’s CEO of Israel Friends and External Relations, Israel. Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya, welcomed all those present, saying that at IDC, “Our commitment to the values on which the state was founded, as well as our representing the avant-garde of academia, is the combination that makes this place unique — it’s a combination of commitment to the past and to the future. This is the right combination for Israel and for its future leadership.”

Nadav Mendelson, a third-year student at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy and chairperson of IDC’s student union, also addressed the crowd. “One out of every five undergraduate students at IDC is a scholarship student, including me,” he said. All proceeds from Israel Friends of IDC Herzliya events go toward helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Following Gilead’s lecture, there was a riveting question and answer session in which the Syrian crisis and the Israel-U.S. relationship were central themes. Guests then enjoyed networking and a buffet, though perhaps the main course was the food for thought served by Maj. Gen. Gilead.

“Because of our common enemies, we have found common ground with many Arab countries.” — Maj. Gen. Amos Gilead

— Ariel Rodal-Spieler
American Friends of IDC

AFIDC Hosts Argov Fellows in New York City

American Friends of IDC and Gideon Argov, founder of the Argov Fellows Program, hosted a special evening for the visiting students and Argov program Executive Director Dr. Alisa Rubin. IDC alumni and supporters came out to Wework Grand Central in New York City for the event. The audience was treated to a presentation by the fellows and a sample debate.

Argov student Achiya Klein (standing, far right), served in the IDF and was severely wounded and lost his eyesight in Operation Protective Edge. He shared his story and delivered a powerful message to the audience about “seeing through darkness to the light at the end of the tunnel.”

AFIDC Alumni Gathering in Boston

More than 30 IDC alumni joined Prof. Uriel Reichman, IDC president and founder, Jonathan Davis, vice president for External Relations and Head of the Raphael Recanati international School, and Prof. Boaz Ganor, dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, founder & executive director, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism, for the alumni gathering that American Friends of IDC hosted in Boston. After Reichman and Davis had everyone introduce themselves, the alumni mingled with old friends, networked, and reminisced about their days at IDC. Reichman then spoke to the alumni about his vision for the future of IDC Herzliya.
AFIDC Board Meeting and L’chaim with Professor Reichman

American Friends of IDC held their annual board meeting in New York City followed by a l’chaim. The event was held to celebrate the news that IDC Herzliya is on the road to becoming the first private university in Israel. Hundreds of supporters and alumni came out to WeWork Madison Avenue to toast IDC’s success.
Hundreds of IDC Herzliya alumni gathered to discuss happiness and creative thinking in the 21st century.

The IDC Alumni Association’s third annual Winter Event, entitled “Where Is Your Creativity?”, brought together IDC alumni from different years and schools, including seven former IDC Student Union chairpersons. Alumni caught up with each other over a delicious dinner created by renowned chef Assaf Granit. The evening’s highlight was a lecture entitled “Happiness and Creative Thinking in the 21st Century” by Dr. Eyal Doron, a lecturer at the Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology and the director of the Creativity in Action program at IDC’s Executive and Continuing Education.

The event’s turnout proved that the Alumni Association has met the goal that IDC President and Founder Prof. Uriel Reichman had set for it: to bring IDC alumni home again.

The evening’s sponsors included Suzuki, United Airlines, and SGS Construction, with all ticket proceeds going toward scholarships for the Keren Or program for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Adi Koll, IDC’s dean of Students and Alumni, said that the fact that the event’s long waiting list – there was not enough room at the event for everyone who was on it – showed “a tremendous commitment to the alumni community that we have created. It shows that IDC alumni feel obligated to their alma mater and its future.”

“Have we the tradition of being a family, and we plan to keep it that way?” – Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya

Adv. Chen Hershkovitz-Ohayon, director of Development and Alumni Relations at IDC, said in her welcoming remarks: “As IDC alumni, our goal is to benefit as much as possible from each other and to strengthen the value of our community. The high level of participation in the association’s activities shows that we are on the right track.”

Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya, said, “As we get closer to the 25th year since IDC’s establishment, we must say that the unique spirit, goals and academic culture of this institution will not last unless you, the alumni, take charge and lead the way. Every new thing the IDC has to offer will be yours. We have the tradition of being a family, and we plan to keep it that way.”

“I’m excited to say that we have accomplished the task that Prof. Reichman gave us – we brought IDC alumni back home,” said Alumni Association Chairman Yair Itzhar-Belahovsky. “But we still have an important task in front of us – to take care of the future generations of IDC. Our job is to recruit more people in order to get more scholarship funding. IDC needs us, and the State of Israel needs IDC. Let’s do this together.”

— Ariel Rodal-Spieler
ICT’s 18th International Conference World Summit on Counter-Terrorism

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https://ictidc.wixsite.com/ict18
Honoring the Supporter of IDC’s Debate Team

IDC’s 2017–2018 Debating Team met with Yossi Landesman, a former IDC parent and a long-time patron of IDC’s debating club, which he supports in memory of his wife, Mucki Landesman, z”l. Landesman was presented with a special trophy to thank him for his support, which is vital to the club’s existence.

IDC Students Explore Google Headquarters

Second- and third-year students from the Business Administration and Economics Program at IDC’s Raphael Recanati International School visited Google headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Dr. Yael Hadass organized the tour, which took place in May, in order to give the students an opportunity to learn about Google and its unique organizational culture, and to explore job opportunities after graduation.

Noa Asher Gherman, head of specialists and strategy at Google, spoke to the students about Google and what it does, and described its most innovative products. She also spoke about Google’s corporate culture, the kinds of candidates Google looks for, and the structure of the application process. Shir Simchayoff, an IDC graduate who works at Google, told the students about her experience at the company.

The high point of the tour was a special appearance by Barak Regev, CEO of Google Israel, who came to congratulate the students, share insights about his career, what google does and his vision on how to lead it. He also told them that international programs such as the one at IDC provide excellent candidates for Google.
Brazilian Delegation Visits IDC Herzliya

A delegation from Rio de Janeiro made a stop at IDC during its trip to Israel. Its members included Herry Rosenberg, the head of Rio de Janeiro’s Jewish community, together with journalists, media specialists and Brazilian community leaders.

In addition to visiting the Communications Museum in the Sammy Ofer School of Communications, the delegation met with Henrique Cymerman, a Brazilian media specialist, and Boaz Ganor, dean; Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy; and founder and executive director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), to discuss topics such as the media’s role in covering terror attacks.

The delegation also met with a group of Brazilian students attending the Raphael Recanati International School.

MIT at IDC

During its visit to the IDC campus, MIT’s Entrepreneurship Club stopped at the Media and Innovation Lab headed by Dr. Oren Zuckerman. This was one of several visits that the club members made during MIT’s Startlabs Israel Tech Trek, which was held in cooperation with MISTI MIT–Israel. The group’s schedule included visits to companies such as Zebra Medical Vision and Tulip Medical, which were started by IDC alumni. For many of the group members, this was their first visit to Israel.

U.S. Senatorial Candidate Bob Hugin Visits IDC Herzliya

Bob Hugin (fifth from left), a former pharmaceutical executive running for the United States Senate, visited IDC Herzliya, where he addressed the Argov Fellows Program in Leadership and Diplomacy before meeting with some of the Raphael Recanati International students from New Jersey. “Character and values matter,” he told the students. “You should strive to have an impact, but do it with integrity. There is a right and wrong. Make decisions with integrity, and then you will live a high quality of life and achieve success.” Photo credit: Ilyan Marshak
Faculty News, Appointments and Promotions

Prof. Dima Adamsky
Associate Professor
Government

Dr. Rifat Azam
Senior Lecturer with Seniority*
Law

Prof. Boaz Ben-David
Associate Professor with Seniority*
Psychology

Prof. Daniel Hamiel
Associate Professor of Practice
Psychology

Dr. Tsahi Hayat
Senior Lecturer
Communications

Dr. Yael Parag
Seniority*
Sustainability

Dr. Geva Shenkman
Senior Lecturer
Psychology

Prof. Zohar Yakhini
Associate Professor with Seniority*
Computer Science

Prof. Anat Shoshani
Associate Professor with Seniority*
Psychology

Prof. Doron Friedman
Associate Professor with Seniority*
Communications

Prof. Dov Greenbaum
Associate Professor with Seniority*
Law

Dr. Dana Pereg
Senior Lecturer
Psychology

Prof. Alon Rosen
Full Professor
Computer Science

Prof. Guy Seidman
Full Professor
Law

Dr. Adam Shinar
Senior Lecturer with Seniority*
Law

Dr. Michal Reifen Tagar
Senior Lecturer
Psychology

*Near equivalent to tenure
TeachEx: Teaching Excellence in Israel

TeachEx (Teaching Excellence) is a project that seeks to enrich the professional development of academic staff by providing sufficient support structures (Centers for Teaching Excellence) and innovative, high-quality, flexible programs designed to promote better teaching and enhanced learning.

In April, the six Israeli institutions involved in the project hosted three external European evaluators for a week-long assessment. The evaluators were Mr. Luut Kroes, managing director of the Dutch Accreditation Body for Institutions of Higher Education; Mr. Louwarnoud van der Duim, director of the Educational Support and Innovation Department at the University of Groningen; and Mr. Rick Stratingh, a teaching assistant in the Educational Support and Innovation Department at the University of Groningen. The Israeli institutions are IDC (as coordinator), Gordon College, Oranim College, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Beit Berl College, and Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

The visit consisted of day-long meetings with each institution involving senior management, teachers, students and staff based in the centers for teaching excellence. This resulted in a positive report, which will be submitted (together with the final report) to the European Union’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which funds the project, in December 2018.

From left to right: Mr. Luut Kroes, managing director of the Dutch Accreditation Body for Institutions of Higher Education; Mr. Louwarnoud van der Duim, director of the Educational Support and Innovation Department at the University of Groningen; and Mr. Rick Stratingh, a teaching assistant at the Educational Support and Innovation Department at the University of Groningen

For more information, please visit TeachEx’s website at http://www.teachex.eu/.

Student Exchange Program

IDC Herzliya continues to forge ahead on the international front, signing student exchange agreements with institutions around the globe. New agreements were signed recently with:

- European Business School, Paris (EBS Paris) (France)
- Group EDH, Paris (France)
- Hochschule, Fulda (Germany)
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (India)
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (India)
- Instituto de Empresa (IE) (Spain)
- MCI Management Center, Innsbruck (Austria)
- MEF University (Turkey)
- OP Jindal Global University (India)
- Shanghai University of Finance & Economics (SUFE) – School of Law (China)
- University of International Business and Economics (China)

Eighty exchange students from universities around the world are currently studying at IDC, while IDC sent nearly 150 students to more than 30 partner universities abroad in 2017. In 2018, IDC expects to send out nearly 300 students, making the IDC semester-abroad exchange program one of Israel’s largest. For more information, please visit IDC’s Student Exchange and Global Engagement web page at: https://www.idc.ac.il/en/global/pages/home.aspx

Research Blog

To keep up on the latest news about research grants, centers, new appointments and projects at IDC Herzliya, please visit our page at http://researchblog.idc.ac.il.
Visits to IDC

Delegations hosted by the Global Engagement Team at IDC since November 2017

Recent high-level delegations from the following institutions have visited IDC:

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<th>Institution</th>
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<td>Aalto University</td>
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<td>Ambassador of India to Israel, Pavan Kapoor</td>
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<td>Eastern Michigan University</td>
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<td>EFAP School of Communication</td>
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<td>Elion Corp.</td>
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<td>Embassy of Chile in Israel</td>
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<td>ESB Paris</td>
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<td>Faculty Fellowship Winter Institute</td>
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<td>Government of Maharashtra</td>
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<td>Innovation Center</td>
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<td>Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies</td>
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<td>Instituto de Empresa (IE)</td>
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<td>Israel Export Institution</td>
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<td>Lauder Business School</td>
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<td>Mayor of Leipzig</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Moscow State Institute of International Relations</td>
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<td>NOVA</td>
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<td>Pan-European University</td>
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<td>Paphos Municipality</td>
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<td>Shanghai Business School</td>
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<td>Singapore Management University (SMU)</td>
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<td>TEC Monterrey</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Syracuse University</td>
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<td>Technical University Dresden</td>
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<td>Tsinghua University</td>
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<td>Universidad Nebrija</td>
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<td>Young Professional Organization</td>
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Faculty News

Professor Alex Mintz’s book, published by Cambridge University Press, has been published in Arabic by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research

Professor Alex Mintz’s book, Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making (with Karl DeRouen, Jr.), published by Cambridge University Press, has been translated into Arabic and published by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. This is another indication of the improved relations between Israel and the Gulf States. The book, which uses a decision theoretic and psychological approaches to explain how leaders make foreign policy decisions – as well as the influences, such as biases and heuristics, that affect such decisions – is used in about 200 courses and research centers in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia, and is being translated into Chinese.

Prof. Gadi Wolfsfeld Named Recipient of the Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award

Prof. Gadi Wolfsfeld has been named this year’s recipient of the Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award, which is given once every two years by the political communication division of the American Political Science Association. The award recognizes a lifetime contribution to the study of political communication. Prof. Wolfsfeld is the second non-American to receive the award (the first was Elihu Katz, in 1993).
Develop the entrepreneur that is inside you with IDC Herzliya

The Undergraduate Program in Entrepreneurship provides you with the knowledge and tools needed to realize entrepreneurial ideas and aspirations.

The program’s rationale is based on the stages of the entrepreneurial process as expressed both in practice and in research:

- Identifying opportunities and raising innovative ideas.
- Defining the required resources for implementing the idea and locating and obtaining them.
- Developing the business model and establishing the initiative or project.
- Developing the initiative and expanding it to the point of an operational and profitable business or to the point of exit.

The program follows the unprecedented success of other entrepreneurship programs at IDC, among them the Zell Entrepreneurship Program, the Media Innovation Lab (miLAB) and the IDC Entrepreneurship Club (IEC)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS (BA)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & COMPUTER SCIENCE (BSc)

For more information:
Claire Alter-Reid | claire.alterreid@idc.ac.il | 972-9-9602978
Two High-Level Delegations from Bulgaria Visit ICT

The head of Bulgaria’s National Defense College signed an academic cooperation agreement with ICT.

The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism welcomed two high-level delegations from Bulgaria this semester. Prof. Boaz Ganor, ICT’s founder and executive director, and Dr. Eitan Azani, ICT’s deputy executive director, hosted a delegation from the G. S. Rakovski National Defense College of Bulgaria. The delegation was led by Maj. Gen. Grudii Ivanov Angelov, commandant of the College. During the visit, Prof. Ganor and Maj. Gen. Angelov signed an academic cooperation agreement between the two institutions.

Mr. Krasimir Karakachanov, Bulgaria’s deputy prime minister and minister of defense, arrived for an official visit in Israel together with the country’s deputy interior minister and deputy chief of staff of the Bulgarian Army. During their visit, ICT experts briefed them on current terrorism and radicalization trends in Europe.

ICT’s Conflict Management and Counter-Terrorism Program Gives Students a Window into Israel and the Middle East

The students toured various places, including the Golan Heights and the Gaza border, and learned about Israel’s minorities during a visit to Baqa al-Gharbiyye.

Students of Birthright Israel’s Study Abroad program who take the course offered by the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in conjunction with Taglit-Birthright Israel, entitled Conflict Management and Counter-Terrorism, get a taste of IDC Herzliya while enjoying the highlights of a classic Taglit-Birthright Israel trip.

The course, which provides first-hand insight and experience into the complex dynamics of Israel and the Middle East, enables participants to gain a deeper understanding of Israel’s counter-terrorism measures.

Mr. Stevie Weinberg, ICT’s director of operations, and Lt. Col. (res.) Uri Ben Yaakov, senior researcher and director of development, hosted a Taglit-Birthright academic program – the third of its kind – from December 2017 to January 2018.

Course participants receive three academic credits, which are transferable to the institutions that they are attending. The course includes a series of lectures on terrorism, counter-terrorism, and the geopolitics of the Middle East, as well as guided tours. The students visited the Golan Heights, the Gaza border, Jerusalem, and the security fence at Kochav Yair, and learned about Israel’s minority population during a visit to Baqa al-Gharbiyye.

The students also toured Israeli military sites, watched an exhibition of the IDF’s canine unit and underground warfare, and fired weapons at an IDF shooting range.
IDC’s Public Diplomacy Program Brings Students to New York and Washington, D.C.

The students of IDC’s Public Diplomacy Program went to the United States on a study tour that was held in cooperation with the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy. As part of a class given within the Public Diplomacy program run jointly between the Sammy Ofer School of Communications and Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, by Ambassador Ron Prosor on US–Israel foreign relations, the students spent a week in New York and Washington D.C., exploring the topic via hands-on experiences and visits to places such as the UN, the U.S. Congress, the White House, the State Department, the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Israeli consulate in New York. They also visited The New York Times, Google, and Georgetown University, as well as Jewish advocacy organizations such as AIPAC and the World Jewish Congress.
IDC’s Lobbying and Political Marketing Workshop Visits the Knesset

Each year, the third-year students in the Marketing and Political Communications specialization at the Sammy Ofer School of Communications create an advertising and lobbying campaign about an important public issue.

The goal of the campaign, which is the part of the final project of the year-long Lobbying and Political Marketing workshop, is to create positive change in a topic of the students’ choice. The campaign can be about any topic that the students wish, such as human rights, the environment, or the passing of laws that promote social justice.

The project has a dual purpose. As the students work on the campaign, they learn about the importance of lobbying and ways to influence decision-makers and the public. The project gives them an opportunity to practice using all the tools they have acquired during their studies in the School of Communications. In addition, the project encourages the students to take an active part in public life, in accordance with IDC’s vision.

The project is moderated by Mr. Shay Even, an IDC alumnus (2009) and an expert in marketing and political communications.

As part of the workshop, the students meet with lobbyists and elected officials and tour the Knesset. On this year’s tour, the students met with MK Yoel Hasson of the Zionist Union, visited various Knesset committees, and watched a debate in the Knesset plenum.

IDC alumni who participated in this project have gone on to create real-life campaigns in the political world and in various NGOs worldwide.

The students with MK Yoel Hasson (Zionist Union).
Content Hub Creates Innovative Simulation for Dealing with Sexual Harassment

The simulation, in 360-degree virtual reality, was created at the Content Hub of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications

Visual content specialization students in the international track of the School of Communications have created the Look Away Project, a virtual-reality experience that simulates situations of sexual harassment, as their contribution to the #metoo movement.

The #metoo movement, an influential campaign against sexual harassment, has encouraged millions of women and men worldwide to share their stories on social media and demand that the powerful people who harassed them take responsibility for their actions.

Core social topics such as bigotry, social inequalities and the treatment of and attitudes toward minority groups are a significant component of the practical studies in the visual content specialization. These studies combine field work, research and production using advanced technology.

At the workshop, which was led by Tal Haring, a virtual-reality creator and a manager of VR festivals, four students developed the Look Away Project, a virtual-reality experience that uses sound and video to bring viewers into real-time harassment situations. The experience uses innovative features and integrates live action photography, including scans of real people, into an animated 3D environment.

One scene takes place at the gym, where viewers are exposed to penetrating and aggressive stares from those around them. Another scene takes place in a crowded bar, and still another on a bus. In each of these situations, a supposedly safe public space instantly becomes a scene of unpleasant, disturbing and violent actions, which the viewer experiences in 360-degree virtual reality. What is permitted, and what is forbidden? Where does one draw the line?

The Sammy Ofer School of Communication's Content Hub is a unique environment for the development and creation of innovative formats and content for the modern media world and its various platforms, such as the Internet, television, and mobile devices. The Content Hub combines research, theory, analysis and criticism with hands-on creative and original work. Its products include cross-platform content, such as scripted online video series and prime-time entertainment, and documentary formats about core social issues.

From the Challenges of Journalism to the Next Generation of Journalists

The Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute hosted and participated in many events this year as part of its vision to increase the quality of journalism in the Middle East and promote informed, balanced and insightful reporting in the region. These events are part of DPIJI’s efforts to honor Daniel Pearl and his legacy.

Dr. Noam Lemelshtrich Latar, chairman of DPIJI, launched his new book, Robot Journalism: Can Human Journalism Survive? at the Digit2018 conference, which was held at IDC Herzliya.

Dr. Latar’s book discusses how artificial intelligence is changing all aspects of communications and journalism as automatic processes and robots replace traditional human roles in all aspects of classical journalism: investigation, content production, and distribution. The first section of the book addresses AI, the emerging field of robot journalism, and the opportunities that AI’s limitations create for human journalists. The second section offers examples of how the new journalism’s storytelling methods empower human journalists through the use of new technologies, new applications, and AI tools.

The institute also hosted a lecture by Dr. Orli Peter entitled “The War for Our Brains: How Empathy Can Be Used to Exploit Us.” Dr. Peter spoke of how advertisers, politicians and even those who are closest to us play on our emotions in order to affect the way we make decisions, and suggested ways to protect ourselves from such manipulations.

DPIJI is also happy to announce that it will be opening an investigative journalism specialization next year for selected third-year communications students. The program, whose purpose is to increase the students’ understanding of the role of investigative journalists, will take them from theoretical studies to researching, gathering information, and producing a piece of investigative reporting. Four leading journalists from various fields will serve as teachers and mentors.

For more information, please visit the DPIJI’s website at http://dpiji.idc.ac.il/en/.
The Media Innovation Lab (miLAB)
Directors, Dr. Oren Zuckerman
General Manager, Noa Morag

IDC Holds Its First UX Hackathon for Students
The Media Innovation Lab (miLAB) of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications, in collaboration with the Schools of Psychology, Computer Science, Business and Entrepreneurship, held its first UX Hackathon this year. The hackathon’s mission was to design useful digital products in the civic information field. Although ever-larger amounts of data are being collected and made available to the public, these data are frequently hard to find and use, or may be completely inaccessible.

The hackathon included a brief talk with the director of the Public Knowledge Workshop (Hasadna) and the director of the Movement for Freedom of Information in Israel. In the ensuing week, teams were encouraged to define a problem, research it, and come to IDC for an intensive day of work, where they would craft and present their solutions. The Netcraft Academy, one of the hackathon’s sponsors, provided mentoring.

MyKnesset, an application that helps first-time voters clarify their political views, won first prize. The second-prize winner was Olé, an app that gives new immigrants the relevant and targeted information they need for a successful immigration experience.

3D Bioprinting in miLAB
The Media Innovation Lab (miLAB) of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications established its first biology workshop as the newest addition to the lab’s existing wood, metal, electronic and 3D printing workshops made for rapid prototyping.

The biology workshop is taking part in the revolution of synthetic biology, allowing for the creation of new interfaces and tools.

The first project we released was a robotic arm-based bioprinter. This affordable and accurate printer is capable of printing live cells and smart materials for the use of HCI researchers, designers, biologists, entrepreneurs or any other creative individual.

For our first live demo, we printed genetically modified microorganisms that produce pigments. In the future, we hope to print tissues and organs, provide support for cell culturing, and engage in lab-grown food production.

The Catakit Research Project
With the growing trend of smart homes and automated devices, where much of the mechanics and inner workings are hidden, the Media Innovation Lab (miLAB) of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications was inspired to create the Catakit, which seeks to remedy the fact that children often do not understand how things work.

The Catakit is a mechanical chain reaction machine that challenges children to be creative in a context that is familiar to them – such as their own rooms, for example. We created a physical device that is clear and intuitive to children and gave them the task of using up to four Catakits sequentially in order to reach a specific goal. Children placed the Catakits such that the first threw a ball at the second, activating each one until the last ball activated the room’s lightswitch or alarm-clock button.

In addition to being a lot of fun, using the Catakit showed how children solve problems. We hope to use the Catakit in the future to explore the physical models of thinking.
Maketec Expands into a Network

Maketec is a youth center for digital creation established by The Media Innovation Lab (miLAB) of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications. With the generous support of the Sara Fine Foundation, Maketec opened its first center in Beit Ariela’s Children’s Library in Tel Aviv in 2015.

Maketec’s vision is to change the way children interact with technology by giving them a fun and educational environment. At Maketec, IDC students and high-school mentors give children the opportunity to conceive and create projects using cutting-edge fabrication technology and other methods.

This year we are forming a network by expanding to more places around Israel. In addition to the two Maketec environments in Tel Aviv – the Children’s Library in Beit Ariela and the new one in the Hadar Yosef neighborhood – we plan to open more branches outside the city, including in Ganei Tikva and Kfar Vradim.

NoCamels Celebrates Eight Years

NoCamels.com has covered breakthrough innovations from Israel for a global audience for almost a decade, become a leading news source on the Israeli tech ecosystem. Founded in 2010, NoCamels reports on startups in the fields of technology, health, design and the environment, as well as on ground-breaking scientific research.

A flagship project of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications’ Asper Institute for New Media Diplomacy, which is marking its tenth anniversary in June, the NoCamels site has reached millions of readers worldwide, and has an engaged following of more than 160,000 followers across its social media channels.

Some of NoCamels’ most talked-about stories since the beginning of the year:

• A revolutionary, lifesaving bandage that stops bleeding in seconds, developed by Israel and sold worldwide

• Eye drops developed by ophthalmologists at Shaare Zedek Medical Center and Bar-Ilan University that correct nearsightedness and farsightedness, which may lead to a future without eyeglasses

• A new method developed by researchers at Ben-Gurion University and the Soroka University Medical Center to detect breast cancer with up to 95 percent accuracy

• The world’s first Kabbalah hotel in Safed, bringing the intrinsic qualities of Jewish mysticism and “received tradition” (the literal meaning of the Hebrew word kabbalah is “receiving”) to Israel’s spiritual capital

• The recent visit to Israel by Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba, and its significance, with a look at his interests in Israel and investments in Israeli startups

• A list of the 10 most influential Israelis in international business, science, and culture

Coming up:

• The launch of NoCamels.com’s redesigned website to showcase more of its reporting

• A story written by an IDC student in the NoCamels journalism program about the new cybersecurity startup headed by former Mossad chief Tamir Pardo

• A roundup of Israeli startups and projects with social impact

Subscribe to: http://nocamels.com/
School of Sustainability and Electrical Infrastructure Security Council Host U.S. Delegation

A delegation of experts from American government and private firms in the energy sector visited IDC’s School of Sustainability. During the visit, which took place in collaboration with the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, the delegates were presented with a full day of lectures, war games and discussions.

The delegation’s visit continues the collaboration that began three years ago between Mr. Udi Ganani, vice president of Israel Operations at the Electric Infrastructure Security Council, and Prof. Yoav Yair, dean of the School of Sustainability.

“New technological developments are turning electricity consumers into ‘prosumers’, who produce energy services as well as consume them.” - Dr. Yael Parag, vice-dean of the School of Sustainability

Prof. Yair welcomed the delegation members to IDC and described its unique learning environment.

Addressing the topic from his background in atmospheric physics and climate change, Yair warned that natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes would strike global cities with increasing frequency, wreaking havoc. “I don’t think Black Sky scenarios are so rare anymore,” he said.

According to the EIS website, a Black Sky hazard is “a catastrophic event that severely disrupts the normal functioning of our critical infrastructures in multiple regions for long durations.”

Dr. Yael Parag, vice-dean of the School of Sustainability, spoke about “moving from energy security to the security of energy services.” She said that new technological developments are turning electricity consumers into “prosumers” who produce energy services as well as consume them – an evolution that has significant implications for energy security.

Other lectures by IDC faculty were given by Prof. Boaz Ganor, founder and executive director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), the Ronald Lauder Chair for Counter-Terrorism, and dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Amos Gilead, executive director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) and chairman of the annual Herzliya Conference Series at IDC Herzliya; and Ambassador Ron Prosor, head of the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy at IDC’s Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy.

The lectures, which offered a broad perspective on regional security issues, were “one of the highlights of their visit in Israel,” Ganani said.

School of Sustainability Dean Speaks in Hong Kong Commemorating the 2003 Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster

Prof. Yair, project manager of an experiment on board the shuttle, provided a unique personal perspective on the mission

Prof. Yoav Yair, dean of the IDC’s School of Sustainability, was invited to address the students of Elsa High School, the largest Jewish educational institute in Hong Kong, for the fifteenth commemoration of the Columbia space shuttle disaster. Yair was in Hong Kong as part of an IDC delegation to that country, Singapore, and South Korea.

The disaster, which took place on February 1, 2003, cost the lives of seven astronauts, including Col. Ilan Ramon of the Israeli Air Force. As Ilan Ramon. (Photo: NASA) Prof. Yair was the project manager of the Israeli MEIDEX experiment on board the shuttle, it was only fitting that he speak about his experiences working with NASA and the astronauts.

Rachel Friedmann, founding head of Elsa High School and principal of the Carmel School Association, wrote to Prof. Yair: “Your talk was fascinating, highly educational and gripping. Several students came to speak to me afterwards to say how they wanted to hear more…. It was a privilege to meet you and I hope that we can link Carmel school to IDC and to your work in the future.”

Rachel Friedmann, founding head of Elsa High School in Hong Kong, and Prof. Yoav Yair, dean of IDC’s School of Sustainability.
School of Sustainability Leads Sustainability Month Opening Event in Tel Aviv on Earth Day

Earth Day, which is celebrated all over the world every April 22nd, was the date of the opening event of Sustainability Month in Tel Aviv. The event, which was held in Habima Square in Tel Aviv, was coordinated by Prof. Yoav Yair, dean of IDC’s School of Sustainability. An image of Planet Earth, showing how our planet looks from NASA’s DISCOVR satellite 1.5 million kilometers away, was projected onto the wall of the theater building. The image, which was processed and converted to live animation by Mr. Michael Boccara, an Israeli computer scientist, was entitled BlueTurn, since it shows our planet revolving in space, fully lit by the sun.

This satellite, which was launched in 2015 by SpaceX, Elon Musk’s aerospace company, was placed in orbit at the L1 point between Earth and the sun, where the pull of the sun’s gravity is balanced by that of Earth, offering the best vantage point to observe both.

Prof. Yair and Mr. Boccara participated in a panel discussion led by journalist Eitan Haddok on the ways that humanity affects our planet and how to mitigate climate change caused by the use of fossil fuels. “We are now experiencing the early results of imbalance to the earth system,” Prof. Yair said, “but it is not too late to alleviate them by moving to renewable energy resources, recycling, and becoming more efficient and careful. Sustainability is the key to our planet’s future.”

Aaron Institute for Economic Policy Holds Round-Table Discussion on Foreign Workers and the Israeli Labor Market

The Aaron Institute for Economic Policy presented two policy papers written by its researchers at its round-table discussion on foreign workers and the Israeli labor market. The first paper, by Dr. Sarit Cohen Goldner, found that the presence of foreign and Palestinian workers has a negative effect on the employment and wages of local unskilled laborers, since both groups compete for the same jobs. The second, presented by Dr. Osnat Lifshitz, showed that a set of policy changes – including cuts in transfer payments, changes in the tax system, higher retirement age, and lower percentages of foreign workers – was the main force behind the significant increase in employment over the past 15 years – an increase that was greater among low-skilled workers and large families. Senior government officials, including Michal Tzuk, director of employment at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services; Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, head of the Population and Immigration Authority; and Ori Sheinin of the Ministry of Finance’s Budget Division spoke during the discussion that followed. Business-sector officials also played an important part in the discussion, and employers in construction and agriculture, the sectors most affected by the government’s policy on foreign workers, offered their perspective.

Talking Inflation

The title of this year’s Interdisciplinary Forum for Financial Economics, which was hosted by the Tiomkin School of Economics and the Arison School of Business, was The Mystery of Low Inflation and the Flood of Cash. Mr. Neil Corney, CEO of Citi Israel, headed the panel, which included Prof. Frank Smets, director general of economics at the European Central Bank; Prof. Michel Strawczynski, director of the Research Department at the Bank of Israel; Prof. Leonardo Leiderman of Tel Aviv University and Bank Hapoalim; Mrs. Anat Levin, deputy CEO and head of the Investment and Finance Division at Clal Insurance Enterprises Holding Ltd.; and Prof. Zvi Eckstein, dean of the Tiomkin School of Economics and director of the Aaron Institute for Economic Policy at IDC Herzliya. Prof. Smets, the keynote speaker, laid out the measures that the ECB has taken in recent years to overcome the impact of the financial crisis and the Euro area debt crisis in order to promote inflation and growth. Among his main points were that the goal of two-percent inflation was about to be achieved and that the Euro area was showing more than the expected reduction in unemployment and GDP growth. The discussion focused on the puzzle of how inflation could be so low when central banks were printing such a high volume of cash. Incoming students, members of the graduating class, and alumni contributed to the discussion, asking many questions and making comments. Among the guests was former prime minister Ehud Barak, who engaged the panelists in discussion as well.
IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, past and present senior officials of the Israeli army, jurists and media professionals gathered for the Sixth Annual Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak Memorial Conference. This year’s conference, entitled ‘The IDF and Israeli Society,’ focused on the Israeli army’s challenges, the status of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and the media’s role in society.

Lt. Gen. Eizenkot, who delivered the keynote address, said, “The IDF’s main mission to defend the state of Israel and to ensure its existence has not changed since its establishment seventy years ago.” He added that since Israel is still under countless threats to its existence even after seventy years of independence, the young generation must be committed and take responsibility to maintain its security.

Even as Eizenkot enumerated the five fronts where the IDF operates today – Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, and Egypt – he said that the Iranian threat is the most severe. “It is a three-dimensional threat whose first, and most serious, aspect is the Iranians’ desire to develop nuclear capabilities. The second aspect is the Iranians’ desire for regional influence and the creation of a Shiite crescent. To that end, Iran has increased its support for Hezbollah and Syria as well as for Iraq and Yemen – and, in recent months, to the Palestinians.”

In his remarks about the escalation in the Gaza Strip, Eizenkot said that Israel would respond to any rocket fired from Gaza. However, he added that considering the delicate and complex situation in Gaza, it was irresponsible to respond to rocket fire with immediate, maximum and extreme force.

“The year 2017 was a good one for the State of Israel in terms of the security balance.”
– Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, chief of Staff

The chief of staff concluded his remarks by saying: “The year 2017 was a good one for the State of Israel in terms of the security balance. The army’s job is to be prepared, alert, professional, sharp, and proactive. It must be prepared to work hard and enable Israel’s citizens to live securely, and enable the state to develop and thrive, and it has done so. At the same time, the army must adapt to challenges and gain strength in all aspects, including its preparedness for war. Training is top priority for the army, and we will continue to strengthen the IDF as a national army and provide the State of Israel a window of normalcy.”

Prof. Aharon Barak, former President of the Supreme Court and a senior faculty member of the Radzyner Law School, spoke about the Declaration of Independence and its legal status. “The main value of the Declaration of Independence is its interpretive value,” he said. “The first and third parts of the Declaration of Independence express the vision of the State of Israel and its credo. As such, they possess legal value and are a fundamental part of the Israeli vision for a Jewish and democratic state.”

Therefore, in Barak’s view, the Knesset’s authority is not absolute. While its authority is broad, it is limited by the principles of the people’s vision and its mission statement as set down in the Declaration of Independence.

After Barak’s remarks, a panel of journalists moderated by journalist Tali Lipkin-Shahak, widow of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, discussed the media’s role in society.

Photo of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak
credit: Amos Ben Gershom
First Global League Deans’ Meeting Hosted in Israel

The Law School’s Global League brings together 25 leading law schools from around the world to promote research and legal education in an era of globalization.

IDC’s Radzyner Law School, a founding member of the Law Schools Global League and its only affiliate in Israel, was honored to host the League’s Deans’ Meeting this year – the first such meeting to be held in Israel. The mission of the LSGL, which brings together 25 leading law schools from around the globe, is to promote research and legal education in an era of globalization.

More than forty deans and other officials from LSGL-affiliated schools gathered at IDC Herzliya for the meeting, which was led by the League’s co-presidents, Prof. Javier de Cendra of IE Madrid (Spain) and Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder of Koç University (Turkey). Three LSGL research-working groups met during the meeting: the Compliance and Anti-Corruption Working Group, the Human Rights Working Group, and the Law and Business Working Group. The participants also visited the Supreme Court, where they met with the President of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Esther Hayut, and then toured the Old City of Jerusalem.

In his welcoming remarks to the participants, Prof. Amnon Lehavi, dean of Radzyner Law School, commended the ongoing collaboration among the League’s members in establishing an annual summer school on law and globalization, advancing cutting-edge research, reaching out to legal practitioners across the globe, promoting access to justice, and fostering initiatives that work at the crossroads of law and technology.

Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya, told the forum: “We live in an extremely challenging period characterized by rapid change. These changes create a new reality that mandates a re-conceptualization of legal doctrine. Academics must play a key role in doing so. Legislation is slow, politicians are busy with daily matters, and courts are busy adjudicating cases. Academia should be largely responsible for establishing new values and legal blueprints that will enable us to adapt to the new world.”

More than forty deans and other officials from LSGL-affiliated schools gathered at IDC Herzliya.


Participants of the Law School Global League Deans’ Meeting at Radzyner Law School at IDC. Photo credit: Eli Dassa.
Leading International Scholars Attend Conference on Law and Time at IDC

Scholars from Israel and around the world attended sessions and gave talks on topics such as the effect of law over time, the timing of law in judicial rulings, and “night law.”

When is a good time to legislate? What is the influence of law over time? Which temporal limitations should be imposed on constitutional changes, and how should the constitution be interpreted over time? What are the pros and cons of “sunset clauses,” and what happens when temporary emergency legislation becomes routine?

These and other issues were the subjects of debate during an international conference, entitled Law and Time, that was held by the Radzyner Law School in conjunction with the Knesset, Leiden University and the Dutch Council of State. Leading scholars on legislation from around the world, including the co-presidents of the International Association of Legislation, Prof. Helen Xanthaki of UCL and Prof. Wim Voermans of Leiden University, attended the conference.

The first day of the conference, which was held at IDC, included panel discussions about historical and jurisprudential perspectives on law and time, the effect of law over time, the interaction between law and the capital market and the diffusion of legal innovations. The third panel discussion addressed the timing of law in judicial rulings, constitutional change and ordinary legislation. Prof. Guy Seidman of IDC Herzliya presented a study on “night law” that examined the historical development of laws regulating activity at night (such as who may be outside at night and under what sort of circumstances), and the implication of such regulations on contemporary legal issues.

The second day of the conference, which was held at the Knesset, focused on time and lawmaking. After opening remarks by Adv. Eyal Yiron, the Knesset’s legal advisor, the first session, which addressed temporary legislation, began.

During the second panel discussion, Adv. Daniel Greenberg, Counsel for Domestic Legislation in the House of Commons, gave a talk entitled The Life Cycle of Legislation. Prof. Sofia Ranchordás of Groningen University, Dr. Yaniv Roznai and Prof. Rivka Weill, both of IDC Herzliya, presented studies on entrenchment, retroactivity and “resurrecting legislation.”

From left: Adv. Daniel Greenberg, Counsel for Domestic Legislation in the House of Commons; Prof. Patricia Popelier, University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law; Prof. Wim Voermans, Leiden Law School; Prof. Pauline Westerman, Groningen Law School; Prof. Sofia Ranchordás, Groningen Law School; Prof. Richard Albert of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law and Boston College Law School; Prof. Steven G. Calabresi, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law; Prof. Antonios Kouroutakis, IE Law School, Madrid; Dr. Enrico Albanesi, University of Genoa & Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London; Adv. Daphna Barnai, Head of Legislative Drafting; Dr. Yaniv Roznai and Prof. Helen Xanthaki.

From right: Dr. Yaniv Roznai, Prof. Sofia Ranchordás, Leiden Law School; Prof. Helen Xanthaki, Prof. Richard Albert.

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Algorithms are taking over much of society, including essential fields such as commerce, finance, law, and transportation. Who makes sure that the algorithms are safe? Do algorithms have boundaries? Should they?

The use of algorithms in society and their legal implications was the topic of the second annual Atara Kaufman Conference on Law, Science and Technology, which the Radzyner Law School hosted in December 2017.

During the two-day event, which examined how various fields use algorithms instead of human action and intuition, several deans from various IDC schools spoke about how their own disciplines used algorithms.

The conference speakers included esteemed legal academics such as Prof. David Nimmer, counsel at Irell & Manella LLP and a distinguished scholar at the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology; Prof. Peter Menell of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law; Prof. Argyro Karanasiou of Bournemouth University; and Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren, Director of the Center for Cyber Law and Policy at the University of Haifa.

In addition to its academic focus, the conference provided a more practical view, with emphasis upon the hi-tech industry. Mr. Bruce Taragin, managing director at Blumberg Capital, which has invested in many technology companies, said, “Most of the companies we are investing in now are companies which apply AI technology. The expectation is that over the next decade, over forty percent of companies’ IT expenditure will be focused on artificial intelligence.”

“Algorithms are learning from the past to predict the future. However, there is a lot of misconception about what algorithms can do. The concept of a general AI that can think for itself and do many things by itself is still science fiction,” said Ilan Admon, co-founder and CTO at LawGeex. “At this stage, the company’s robot lawyer is already able to examine simple agreements, such as NDAs. Legal tech is thriving by combining man and machine tools. Slowly but surely, the machines will take over this field.”

The conference’s concluding session was a panel discussion about the biases that can result from the use of algorithms, how they can be avoided, and who should be held responsible when the software “makes decisions” that harm the consumer.

From left: Amit Elazari, IDC alumnus; Prof. Lior Zemer, deputy dean, Radzyner Law School; Noam Lemeishtrich Latar, dean, Sami Ofer School of Communications; Prof. Argyro Karanasiou; Aviv Gaon, IDC alumnus; Prof. Dov Greenbaum; Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren; Prof. David Nimmer, Prof. Perter Menell and Prof. Amnon Lehavi, Dean Radzyner Law School.
President of the American Bar Association Visits Radzyner Law School

ABA President Hilarie Bass spoke at a roundtable session with law students and faculty about issues such as gender equality and the role of legal clinics.

Just before her meeting with Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, Hilarie Bass, president of the American Bar Association and co-president of the Greenberg Traurig international law firm, led a roundtable discussion with students and faculty from IDC Herzliya's Radzyner Law School.

The ABA is the world’s largest voluntary professional organization, with more than 400,000 members. Bass, one of the best-known female attorneys in the United States, has served as its president since August 2017. She is also the founder and former chair of Greenberg Traurig’s Women’s Initiative. A frequent visitor to Israel, Bass maintains close ties with Israel’s legal and business communities.

“For a young law school, you are known for being very unique – your 13 legal clinics are proof of that,” said Bass, addressing the dean of the Radzyner Law School, Prof. Amnon Lehavi, and the other participants. “Legal education and the legal profession will change more in the next two decades than it has in the last two centuries. It’s clear that IDC recognizes that.”

Bass discussed the ABA’s various initiatives, saying, “We serve as the voice of the legal profession. We help with the drafting of the modern rules of legal ethics, advance our members’ career development, and promote the elimination of bias and the enhancement of diversity in the legal profession. We are perhaps most well-known for our involvement in judicial selection – we do a peer review of every federal judge with a lifetime appointment. We want to understand each person’s capacity as a judge, while remaining completely non-partisan.”

Bass also presented the ABA’s Rule of Law Initiative across the world, an international development program that promotes justice, economic opportunity and human dignity through the rule of law. “In collaboration with our partners in the countries in which we work, we design programs that are responsive to local needs and that prioritize sustainable solutions,” she said. “We don’t promote an American-style justice system, but rather adopt best practices from around the world. We only go where we are invited and where our assistance is requested. Our help may take the form of training lawyers or judges, or in helping to draft new laws. For example, we just helped draft a new constitution in Morocco which includes gender equality.”

The discussion that followed Bass’s address included topics that have been making headlines in the United States, Israel, and around the world, such as investigations of senior politicians and forces that are undermining the rule of law in some Eastern European countries. One student asked, “Is the rule of law becoming a political issue? Are we losing the non-partisan principle of the rule of law?”

Two other topics that were raised were women’s representation in the legal profession and the role of legal clinics.

“Since 2016, more women have matriculated from law schools than men,” said Bass. “However, by age fifty, half of the women have left the profession. We’re doing a longitudinal study to find out why. We believe that some of the reasons are success fatigue, implicit bias, and unequal compensation. The bottom line is that we still have a long way to go. But we’re working on it.”

Bass noted that legal clinics are important not only for reducing inequalities, but also for creating practice-ready lawyers. “Work in clinics gives students hands-on experience in the legal practice, and is not in competition with anyone, as paying clients would not use the clinics anyway,” she said.

Summing up, Bass said that the rule of law is the greatest system of government devised by humans, but it requires constant tending. Our democracy is not self-executing. We need lawyers to enforce the laws and to protect the democracy. An independent judiciary is the most crucial thing – without it there can be no rule of law.”

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
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Radzyner Law School Hosts Conference on Sacred/Secular Space

Guest lecturers from Emory University School of Law gave talks about changes in legal protections for sacred space in Africa and the United States.

In a world of increasing legal regulation, do sacred places continue to enjoy traditional immunities? To what extent can religious norms be expressed in the public sphere? These and other topics were discussed at the Secular/Sacred Space Conference held in partnership with the Center for Law and Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Douglas Waters and Mr. John Wamwara, both SJD candidates at Emory University School of Law, gave the two opening talks about the tension between the protection of sacred places and real-estate development in undeveloped areas. Mr. Wamwara described the expulsion of African communities from their traditional living areas, including their holy places. He noted that the courts have recently provided greater protection to the places where the community members live and worship. In the United States, however, it seems that economic considerations and development needs continue to prevail.

Prof. Lior Barshack and Prof. Yoram Shachar, both faculty members at Radzyner Law School, spoke on the first day of the conference. Prof. Barshack spoke about the relationship between public and sacred spaces and the need to emphasize the differences between them. Prof. Shachar described the development of the status quo at Israel’s holy sites during the Ottoman period and the preservation of that status quo during the time of the British Mandate.

On the second day of the conference, Prof. Rivka Weill and Dr. Yaniv Roznai, also faculty members at the Radzyner Law School, gave talks about attempts by legal systems to preserve the past. Dr. Roznai spoke about the use of eternal clauses, and Prof. Weill spoke about “saving clauses” in constitutions.

Prof. Michael Broyde, faculty member at Emory University, gave an overview of the regulation of holy places in United States constitutional law. As Broyde showed, in recent years the question has arisen many times as to whether the American model of the separation of church and state requires that the state avoid instituting any form of regulation in sacred places even when the regulation concerns only “technical” aspects such as safety issues and access for people with disabilities.

The last session addressed the way various models of relations between religion and state perceive sacred places. Prof. Mark Goldfeder, a senior lecturer at Emory University School of Law and a senior fellow at Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion, discussed the relationship between religion and state in the United States, suggesting that Christianity should be recognized as the main religion of the United States. Therefore, in his opinion, the state should be allowed to grant special status to Christian symbols, customs, days of rest and holidays.
Compensating Crime Victims

Following a recent Supreme Court ruling (a further hearing in the case of State of Israel v. Avner Twek Bukowsa) that authorizes criminal courts to order defendants to compensate not only the victims of their crime, but their relatives as well (such as the relatives of a murder victim), the Criminal Law in Action Forum held a discussion entitled Compensation for Crime Victims.

The panelists included Adv. Joey Ash, head of the Criminal Department of the Attorney General’s Office; Adv. Moran Carmon, head of Economic Enforcement at the Public Defense Office; Adv. Tali Eisenberg, who represents crime victims; Dr. Tali Gal, head of the School of Criminology at the University of Haifa; Senior Judge Chany Slotky of the Beersheva District Court (via Skype); and Mr. Doron Tashtit, head of the Fines Collection Center at the Law Enforcement and Collection System Authority.

Among the issues discussed were the limiting of compensation to a total sum of 258,000 shekels, and whether this limit strikes a proper balance between victims’ and defendants’ rights. Adv. Joey Ash noted that in some cases, the position of the victim of the crime may not match that of the public prosecutor, who represents the public interest. Mr. Tashtit, head of the Fines Collection Center, said that in many cases it was difficult to collect the money since the convicted offenders are unable to pay. He noted that even when the money is collected, the center has difficulty locating the intended recipients, who are either unaware of their rights or unwilling to cooperate.

Global Perspectives on Fiduciary Law

In recent years, the world has seen renewed interest in fiduciary law as a way to address the challenges posed by complex relationships in the business and public spheres. In addition to the well-known fiduciary relationships such as trustees, agents and managers and directors of companies, there is a public interest in applying trust obligations to relatively new players, such as pension fund managers and other institutional investors, as well as officials of the public sector, such as politicians and legislators.

IDC Herzliya recently held a Global Perspectives on Fiduciary Law Conference, the first of its kind in Israel, as part of the annual Atara Kaufman Conference on Law and Globalization. Academics from Australia, the United States and Europe, as well as from Israel’s major universities, met to discuss the topic.
Bringing Former Inmates into the Labor Market

IDC Herzliya’s Street Law Legal Clinic recently held its second academic conference on the re-entry of ex-offenders into the labor market. The purpose of the conference was to examine the regulatory solutions and policy changes that could help increase the employment rate among former inmates.

Dr. Rotem Efodi, National Supervisor of the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority, described the extensive research that shows the correlation between employment and the successful rehabilitation of former inmates. Deputy Warden Nissim Kashi, head of the Israel Prison Service’s employment branch, said, “It is encouraging to know that there is a true bond between academia and the real world. The initiative to hold periodic job fairs for ex-prisoners will change our culture, since employment is the most important factor in rehabilitation.”

Itai Ezri and Matan Benvenisti, two of the students who work at the clinic, spoke after the opening session and proposed their solutions. Expressing their hope for the future, they said, “We hope that the small step we have taken in our clinical experience this year will one day lead to great change.” Ezri and Benvenisti work at the clinic under the supervision of Adv. Aya Tal, who heads the clinic this year, and Adv. Ziv Lidror.

A panel discussion on the subject then took place. The panel included Prof. Tomer Einat of the Department of Criminology at Bar Ilan University; Adv. Inbar Yehezkel Billious, senior assistant to the Minister of Finance on social affairs; and Mr. Ofer Ben Elizero, head of the Ramat Yishai local council, who represented Israeli local authorities.

The conference was organized by Prof. Rivka Weill of the Radzyner Law School in conjunction with the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy at IDC, and sponsored by Nevo Publishing, a legal publishing company.

The conference began with a panel discussion about the State of Israel’s Jewish and democratic character from the Declaration of Independence to the proposed Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People. Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC, suggested enacting a Basic Law: Declaration of Independence instead of the nation-state bill. Prof. Aharon Barak, former president of the Israeli Supreme Court and a senior faculty member at IDC, said that the Knesset’s constituent authority was limited by the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. Prof. Ruth Gavizion, of the Hebrew University, said that while the Knesset has the authority to pass the nation state bill, in its current form it is an unwelcome legislation.

The conference also included six parallel sessions in which scholars presented their most recent studies on topics such as empirical studies in Israeli law, the laws of war, human rights in the online era, the court in an era of settlements, technology and social criticism, and conversion to Judaism.

IDC Hosts Fourth Annual Israeli Chapter of International Society of Public Law Conference

Approximately 150 scholars from all over the world gathered to discuss important issues in Israeli public law, such as the proposed nation-state Basic Law.

IDC Herzliya recently hosted the fourth ICON-S IL conference, the annual gathering of the Israeli Chapter of International Society of Public Law. This was the largest ICON-S IL conference since the Israeli chapter was founded in 2014, with approximately 150 scholars participating on 28 panels that addressed the most important issues in Israeli public law.

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IDC students from the International Criminal and Humanitarian/Transitional Justice Law Clinic participated in an intense week of study at Emory University in Atlanta and in Washington, visited various locations including the Pentagon, National War College, and Washington Holocaust Museum, with students from the twin IHL Clinics at Emory University and Leiden University in The Netherlands.

After a visit to the Pentagon, where they attended lectures given by legal advisors and officers, the students had an enriching experience in the IHL advisory simulation at the National War College, where they acted as legal advisors to army officers during combat. The trip also included a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and lectures on IHL’s agenda, including autonomous weapons, the protection of civilians in combat and the challenges of asymmetric warfare. The study trip was a unique opportunity to build valuable networks for the future.

“Taking part in the trip to Atlanta and Washington DC, along with my fellow clinic students, has given me the opportunity to see the practical side of International Humanitarian Law and has made my passion for this world an even greater one,” said Yarden Rozenman, a student at the clinic.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the International Criminal and Humanitarian/Transitional Justice Law Clinic, an apolitical and non-partisan organization, aims to promote the rule of law internationally and provide the next generation of lawyers with the proper legal tools to handle complex legal questions that arise on the political and diplomatic scenes and in the media. The ICHL Clinic includes a theoretical course with guest lectures, debates and an International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court where students litigate in English, representing the prosecution, victims, and the defense or the state. Students are also introduced to the practice of international law, and assist practitioners from international organizations, international criminal courts and tribunals, the ICRC, governments, civil society, and victims of international crimes.

Although the clinic contains a common core, it is divided into two specializations: the IHL Branch and the Transitional Justice Branch.

On April 9 and 10 2018, the clinic held a conference entitled Justice and Conflict: Comparative Perspectives, sponsored by the Swiss Embassy in Israel. The topic of the conference was judicial and non-judicial “justice mechanisms” in conflict situations. The three main focal points of the conference were the international criminal accountability model (e.g. Syria, Central African Republic, and the former Yugoslavia), the Colombian case study with the recent implementation of the peace agreement, including the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, examining the relevance of ex ante transitional justice mechanisms, the role of women in durable peace, the main questions and participants of a transitional justice mecha-
Blockchain Technology: What's the Regulation?

The Zvi Meitar Institute hosted a round-table discussion on Israeli regulation of the blockchain technology behind Bitcoin, particularly the issues relating to Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs). Four law students from the Zvi Meitar Institute for Legal Implications of Emerging Technologies led the discussion: Gal Acrich, On Dvori, Ophir Samuelov and Katia Litvak. In cooperation with Deloitte, these four students are working as researchers on a project examining the legal issues relating to the expanding and developing field of ICO.

From the open discussion that took place during this closed-door event, the students learned that Israeli stakeholders – industry leaders, partners of Israel’s top law firms, and government officials, including Dr. Gitit Gur-Gershgoren, chief economist of the Israel Securities Authority – were in favor of setting up new models to promote the local use of ICOs while enacting some regulatory controls. Prof. Dov Greenbaum, director of the Zvi Meitar Institute, said, “They will need to walk a tightrope: disincentivizing those who are simply trying to replace IPOs, with all of their oversight and regulation, with ICOs, and those who legitimately are pushing technological innovation forward through their ICO. This balance needs to keep in mind the needs of those who are advancing innovative technologies and naïve investors who are caught up in the Bitcoin craze.”

In summing up the discussions, the students concluded that most ICOs were beneficial and important to the development of blockchain technology, and that lenient but effective regulation should be enacted in Israel sooner rather than later. To this end, most of the participants suggested that the regulatory model should be a singular one that would include all governmental bodies and regulators.

Delving into the World of Sports Technology

Innovative technologies are changing all parts of the sports industry, promising to enhance the experience for teams, athletes and fans.

The Zvi Meitar Institute of Emerging Technologies, in partnership with the Adelson School of Entrepreneurship and the Yigal Arnon and DLA Piper law firms, hosted a conference on Sports technology.

Prof. Dov Greenbaum, director of the Zvi Meitar Institute, opened the event by speaking about the legal concerns associated with emerging sports technology – concerns related to the collection, curation and analysis of data obtained on and off the field. The potential problems arising from the use of this data include ownership, privacy, and permissible and prohibited use of the data. During his lecture, Dov said, “Sports is an addiction and data is its heroin.”

Some of the Israeli sports industry’s leading figures attended the conference, where they shared their experiences and visions for the industry’s future. The conference included an interactive panel session moderated by Adv. Ronit Yaniv-Amir, partner at Yigal Arnon, in which the panelists – David Malka, Edli Merkus, Ronit Glasman, and Oren Simanian – discussed problems in the sport tech industry in Israel, the products and services that need to be developed, and the budget.

Jeremy Pressman, a partner at OurCrowd, noted the lack of innovation in the way that sports are consumed. He presented OurCrowd’s latest project, LeAD, a collaboration with the grandchildren of Adi Dassler, the founder of Adidas. LeAD, in conjunction with other sports families, supports sports tech companies from around the world.

Serial entrepreneur Miky Tamir, founder of Track160, described his newest technology, which uses deep learning and computer vision to track soccer players in real time. The technology also provides real-time, realistic animations of the players, allowing viewers to watch the game from various vantage points that include the players’ own perspective.

Daniel Schichman, co-founder of WSC Sports, described his company’s technology, which creates, automatically and in real time, brief customized videos that tailor the game to the needs of the fans.

Peter C. White, global co-chair of DLA Piper’s Media, Sport and Entertainment Sector, enumerated the challenges that arise when technology and sports meet, with privacy as one of the most vexing.

Dr Erez Morag, founder and CEO of Acceler8 Performance, talked about the innovations, driven by the athletes’ own specific needs, that he has brought to the field. Aviv Shapira, co-founder of Replay Technologies, which Intel acquired in March 2016, shared the story of his successes and failures, which ultimately led to a technology that provides a 360-degree view of any sport. Yaniv Levin, co-founder and CEO of Tokabot, described how his interactive platform for sports group chats promotes fan engagement.
Zvi Meitar Institute Holds Conference on Bitcoin and Blockchain Technology

The conference sessions covered issues such as taxation, regulation, and how cryptocurrencies will affect our lives.

The Zvi Meitar Institute for Legal Implications of Emerging Technologies, in cooperation with the Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal law firm and the Adelson School of Entrepreneurship, held a conference entitled Bitcoin and Blockchain: A New Era in the Financial World, on the complex issues relating to Bitcoin and blockchain technology. This topic, together with the top industry leaders who spoke, attracted more than 400 people, filling the auditorium and three overflow venues with a diverse and eager crowd.

The conference, focused on the implications of this emerging technology, as well as the issue of decentralization, which is a primary concern regarding Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Shelly Hod Moyal, founder of the iAngels investment platform, gave an excellent introduction to the basic ideas of Bitcoin and blockchain technology. Regarding the excitement over Bitcoin, she said, “This is a significant opportunity for investors and entrepreneurs.”

Meirav Harel, chief operating officer of Bancor, spoke about the importance of cryptocurrencies and token coins and how they will affect our lives.

The CEO of Wave, Gadi Ruschin, spoke about his company’s early adoption of blockchain as a decentralized network for the entire international shipping supply chain. “The trade sector is eager to move to a digital world, and there is no entity involved in the process that enjoys using paper,” he said.

A diverse group of industry leaders participated in a panel discussion on whether digital currencies promise a safer future or are a bubble waiting to burst. Alon Sahar, a partner at Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal, moderated the discussion, which included Shelly Hod Moyal; Mr. Hagai Zachor, senior consultant of innovation and strategy at Deloitte Israel; Mr. Meni Rosenfeld, chairman of the Israeli Bitcoin Association; Mr. Nadav Shemesh, advisor to the Finance Minister; and Mr. Tal Beja, blockchain and infrastructures team leader at Colu. The topic of the discussion was Israel’s tax and regulation intervention, which interferes with Bitcoin’s ability to remain decentralized. The panel also discussed the social implications of protecting investments in Initial Coin Offerings made by those who are less informed. “We excel in high-tech fintech,” Shemesh said, “and in general, we excel in the economy. Our duty as a state is to make it possible for the economy and those companies to exist and thrive in Israel.”

Ms. Adi Karmon Scope, founder of Fractal ICO Boutique, spoke about ICOs and why people should get involved. Speaking to the students in the room, to whom she referred as “the entrepreneurs of the future,” she mentioned the vast funding capacity for blockchain-based projects through ICOs as compared with venture-capital funding for such projects.

In the final session, Mr. Dudi Bavli, head of the Technology and Innovation Division and deputy banking supervisor at the Bank of Israel, enumerated blockchain’s main benefits and risks. “As a central bank, we are following the developments in the world,” he said. “We are looking into the matter, and we will adopt targeted regulations for this technology according to what we find.”

The conference, was made possible by the Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal law firm.

Zvi Meitar Program Students Visit Dell EMC and General Motors

On a tour this past semester of Dell EMC’s Anti-Fraud Command Center, students from IDC’s Zvi Meitar Institute for Legal Implications of Emerging Technologies got a chance to see the workspace and control rooms where cyber analysts deal with threats such as malware and phishing in their efforts to make the online world a safer place.

After the tour, the students had the privilege to sit down for an intimate discussion with Dr. Orna Berry, vice president and general manager of research and development for Dell EMC in Israel at that time. Dr. Berry was also the first woman to serve as chief scientist, the highest position in the Economy Ministry’s Israel Innovation Authority.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with Gil Golan, director of General Motors’s Advanced Technician Training Center, and Ariella Grinberg-Felder, innovation manager at GM, for an in-depth discussion about the self-driving car revolution and how General Motors’s state-of-the-art technology is helping to bring it about.
Wading into the World of Water Management

IDC’s Executive and Continuing Education, in cooperation with IDC’s School of Sustainability, Founded by Israel Corporation, ICL & ORL, and the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Central Water Commission (CWC) of India recently held its first Water Management Exposure Week. The purpose of this week-long program was to introduce Indian water professionals to the latest technologies and practices that are available in Israel and around the world. The program’s agenda, which combined academic teaching with hands-on practical experience, demonstrated how Israel, through collaboration between the government and the private sector, has taken full advantage of its limited resources to create a prosperous environment, reaching water independence while supporting agriculture and industry. During the program, the delegation met prominent academic faculty and professionals, high-ranking officials in Israel’s Water Authority and the Israeli government, and directors of leading Israeli innovative technology companies. They also visited key sites such as desalination plants, the National Water Carrier, and the Agricultural Research Organization.

Striving for Excellence – Managing Professional Talent in an Organization

Managing talent in the business world is one of the most challenging issues for organizations. Methods for such management can be developed using classic cognitive ways or by using alternative methods, such as extreme sports. The goal of the Striving for Excellence course, which is given by IDC’s Executive and Continuing Education, is to teach managers how to grow and develop leadership and help organizations manage their talent. This unique course, which is taught by Dr. Tal Samual Azran, academic head of the international program at IDC’s Sammy Ofer School of Communications, and Mr. Niv Nachlieli, organizational consultant in sports and business companies, uses kayaking as the analogue for leadership development and management excellence. Participants also attend lectures by Justice Richard Bernstein of the Michigan Supreme Court, the first blind justice to sit on Michigan’s Supreme Court; Ariel Ashad, a former senior official from the Prime Minister’s Office and a kayaking instructor; and Liran Liani, an international soccer referee and kayaker extraordinaire. The course participants, who face unique challenges in complex situations, must use their leadership skills and other professional abilities to make decisions, use their personal potential to its best advantage, and develop techniques rather than work on instinct. They must know when to go with the flow, when to insist on what they want, and when to change course.

The goal of the Striving for Excellence course is to teach managers how to grow and develop leadership and help organizations manage their talent by using extreme sports as the teaching tool.

IDC’s Executive and Continuing Education, headed by Dr. Taly Eichenwald-Dvir, initiates, develops and organizes interdisciplinary, international and interpersonal training programs that provide a real and unique response to the needs of organizations, executives and senior professionals. The international programs introduce senior managers to the best-kept secrets of Israel innovation and entrepreneurship in various fields, and rely on leading faculty members of our ten prominent schools. Each program is tailored to the needs of each delegation.
The Adelson School of Entrepreneurship Opens Its Undergraduate Programs in English

The new degree track will offer double majors in Entrepreneurship and Computer Science or Entrepreneurship and Business.

IDC Herzliya, one of the world’s leading academic institutions for entrepreneurial education, is opening two new English-language double major programs – a B.A. in Entrepreneurship and Business, and a B.Sc. in Entrepreneurship and Computer Science. The programs, which will be offered through the Raphael Recanati International Program, follow in the footsteps of other successful entrepreneurship programs at IDC, such as the Zell Entrepreneurship Program, the Media Innovation Lab, and the IDC Entrepreneurship Club.

The degrees – the first of their kind in Israel – will be granted by the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson School of Entrepreneurship, an innovative center in the Israeli academic landscape that promotes both research and practice in entrepreneurship in Israel. The school’s dean is Prof. Yair Tauman, and its deputy dean is Dr. Yossi Maaravi.

Dr. Gali Einav, head of the International Undergraduate Program in Entrepreneurship, says, "The Undergraduate Program in Entrepreneurship provides a unique combination of hands-on experience and academic knowledge. The goal of the program is to provide students with the knowledge and tools to fulfill their entrepreneurial aspirations both individually and within organizations. From day one, the students face real-world projects and challenges, and work closely with faculty and industry mentors to build the skills necessary for navigating the challenges of the 21st century. It is truly a unique experience!"

Courses in the undergraduate programs in Entrepreneurship include venture creation, innovative technology, and strategic thinking. The program’s rationale is based on the stages of the entrepreneurial process in practice and in research: identifying opportunities and coming up with innovative ideas; defining and obtaining the resources needed for putting the idea into practice; developing the business model; and building, developing and expanding the project into a viable and profitable business or to the point of exit. Lecturers include prominent researchers and experts from Israel and the world, and leaders of the Israeli startup community, entrepreneurs and investors mentor the students.

The double major program in Entrepreneurship and Computer Science prepares its graduates to handle the analytical and technical challenges they will face in their future employment. The curriculum addresses the present moment in the history of computer science – a critical time, since technological development is changing the patterns of our work, leisure and life. The double major program in Entrepreneurship and Business is intended for students who wish to create new innovative startups or new projects within existing organizations. The curriculum teaches practical skills such as building prototypes and designing business plans. Students in the business and computer science tracks take their entrepreneurship courses together, which adds to the diversity and uniqueness of the program.

"As head of the international school, I am very proud of the IDC’s provost and the heads of the entrepreneurship program at the Adelson School for their initiative and 'academic entrepreneurship' in establishing this program in the RRIS just one year after it opened in the Hebrew track,” says Jonathan Davis, head of the RRIS and IDC’s vice-president for External Relations. “In fact, I can already see that the program is taking off like a house on fire because this subject has become the order of the day. Here we are at IDC Herzliya, in the heart of Israel’s Silicon Valley. What could be more appropriate for us to teach?”

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
This year’s Herzliya Conference took place in what may well have been the most eventful week of the year for Israel. The opening night of the conference coincided with President Donald J. Trump’s announcement that the United States would be pulling out of the so-called “Iran Deal,” and the days that followed saw unprecedented military confrontations between Iran and Israel on the Syrian border. Then, immediately after the conference, the U.S. officially moved its embassy to Jerusalem. All these events gave the conference’s participants even more material than usual for dynamic and salient discussions.

Prof. Uriel Reichman, president and founder of IDC Herzliya, opened and closed the conference with a message of unity: “There must be an end to incitement to the right or to the left, and rather a focus on problem-solving,” he said. He called for a return to the original vision of Zionism, that of Herzl and of Israel’s Declaration of Independence. “The Zionist idea is about the Jews as a people and not only as a religion, the return to Zion, and having sovereignty in Israel. But it is also about liberal, democratic values.”

The Herzliya Conference, the flagship event of the Institute for Policy and Strategy at IDC Herzliya, is chaired by Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilead, executive director of IPS. Widely considered Israel’s foremost global policy gathering, the Herzliya Conference brings together senior Israeli and international participants from government, business and academia to address pressing national, regional and global issues.

Addressing the conference, Gilead said, “Trump’s decision to pull out of the Iran deal is a historic one. This deal is one of the worst in history. But there needs to be an alternative. I fear that the Iranians will say that they’ll continue with the deal and work with China, Russia, and the Western European countries, thus isolating the U.S. And Iran will continue building up their nuclear capability. The Iranian threat is not propaganda – they mean it. They’ve set for themselves the goal of destroying us by 2048.”

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On the morning following the thwarted Iranian missile attack on Israel, Gilead hosted Avigdor Liberman, Israel’s minister of defense, for a conversation in a special plenary session. Liberman told the audience that the Iranian missiles never reached their destination – most of them fell in Syrian territory, while the others were intercepted by Israel’s Iron Dome system. The Israeli Air Force launched a large-scale operation against Iranian targets in Syria in retaliation. Liberman said, “We have hit almost the entire Iranian infrastructure in Syria. They must remember: If it rains here [in Israel], there’ll be a storm over there.” He added, “While we have no interest in escalation, we must be prepared for any scenario. We are facing a new reality in which Iran is threatening Israel and its sovereignty.”

President Trump’s unpredictability has won him some successes, said Mary Beth Long, former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. “Trump broke the cycle with North Korea,” she said. “Previous administrations tried over and over again to make concessions and bring them to the table, and nothing worked.”

Amb. Dennis Ross, former special assistant to Barack Obama and White House coordinator for the Middle East, said, “With his withdrawal from the deal, Trump may have also been trying to signal to Kim Jong-un that ‘This is what will happen if you don’t do things on my terms.’”

A different opinion was voiced by Dr. Dalia Dassa Kaye, director of the Center for Middle East Public Policy at the RAND Corporation. “This is not going to be a U.S.-led world order for much longer,” she said. “I think Trump is accelerating the decline of the U.S., as we’re becoming increasingly isolated. Just because he’s fulfilling his campaign promises, it doesn’t make him any less dangerous. Before we celebrate the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, let’s wait and see.”

Against the backdrop of the U.S. embassy move, threats made as the Palestinian Naqba Day approached, and ongoing riots on the Gaza border, various experts shared their views on the Israeli-Palestinian impasse and alternatives to the two-state solution.

“The has been zero engagement between Palestinians and the U.S. since the embassy announcement. They’re looking elsewhere for a broker,” said Ian Goldberg, director of the

Education Minister Naftali Bennett said, “The ayatollahs’ regime is on borrowed time and will inevitably collapse. If Iran continues on its current path, it will find that Syria has become its own Vietnam.”

Panel discussions on the Israel–Iran confrontation, global powers, and U.S. policy in the Middle East revealed varied opinions on recent developments and their possible repercussions.

Elliott Abrams, a senior fellow for Middle East Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and former deputy national security advisor to George W. Bush, said, “I don’t think the Iranians will agree to the clauses Trump wants in renegotiating the deal – for example, addressing ballistic missiles and the sunset clauses... Though we have failed completely to predict regime change anywhere and anytime, the Iranian population does hate the regime.”

Sima Shine, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, said, “I don’t believe in regime change from the outside. But I don’t think this regime is sustainable – I think it’s doomed in the future because of the gap between it and the population. I don’t know if it will be gradual or if it will be a revolution, but I don’t think it will continue the way it is for another 40 years.”

“Have you ever stopped to think about what the world would have been like if the U.S. never existed?” – Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University

“The is something magical about this country and its people – Israelis need to understand that and use it for the greater good.” – Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University

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Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. “For the next few years I don’t see any agreement taking place.”

Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat spoke about the U.S. embassy’s historic move to Jerusalem, saying, “I took it upon myself to increase the economy of the city for all of its citizens. In 1967 we united Jerusalem, and now we are connecting it. My goal is to bring the level of satisfaction of Jerusalem’s Arabs to that of other Arabs in Israel, and in doing this end the discussion over the dividing of Jerusalem. I think this is an attainable goal.”

In addition to addressing traditional strategic threats, the Herzliya Conference also examines Israel’s national resilience from social, economic, and cultural perspectives. As Gilead put it, “I see national resilience as a house: you can have four walls that are very strong – that is, the Mossad, the IDF, and so on, but if you have termites eating the floor – the socio-economic issues – then the house will collapse anyway.”

Prof. Rafi Melnick, former provost of IDC, said that while almost all of Israel’s current economic indicators are good, its levels of poverty and inequality are still among the highest of the OECD countries. “Macroeconomic policies provide stability and resilience, but they are not enough to close the gap with other western countries,” he said. “Without improvements in productivity, the gaps in the standard of living will remain.”

Eli Groner, director-general of the Prime Minister’s Office, blamed the high cost of living in Israel on over-regulation, which he said “negatively affects every type of economic marker. Smart regulation, however, leads to growth.” Groner presented the Prime Minister’s Office’s four-pronged strategic plan to tackle over-regulation – a plan that, he said, has already been praised by the international community.

One particularly charged session concerned the approximately 40,000 African refugees seeking asylum in Israel. Joey Low, founder of Israel at Heart and Star Farm Ventures, said that his desire to help the asylum seekers stemmed from his Jewish values. “It’s so clear to me as a Jew that we need to help people who are facing genocide,” he said. “One of the ways to be strong is to have people support you, and that should include Jews from around the world. It’s difficult to do that if Israel has policies that could be perceived as racist. The thought of Israel deporting 30,000–40,000 Africans is very painful for American Jews. These refugees need to be given rights that will allow them to live in dignity.”

Eli Yishai, former minister of the interior, said that in his opinion, Israel, with all the problems it already has, shouldn’t have to deal with this as well. “I would like to train these people and do whatever we can to help them return home to a good life and advance the economy in their home countries,” he said. “I have no less sympathy for these people than anyone else on the panel, but I’m thinking of the future of the Jewish state.”

Irina Nevzlin, chair of the board of directors of the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot and president of the Nadav Foundation


“If there is any real strategic threat to the State of Israel and the Jewish people, it is threat of us not being united.” – Irina Nevzlin, chair of the board of Directors of the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot and president of the Nadav Foundation

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Irina Nevzlin, chair of the board of directors of the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot, opened a session on Israel and world Jewry, held in cooperation with the Andrew H. and Ann R. Tisch Center for Jewish Dialogue at the museum. In her address, Nevzlin spoke of the need to teach the young generation about Jewish identity and roots, and to instill a sense of pride in Jewish heritage from a young age in order to create a “robust sense of belonging.” “We are all one people,” she said. “If there is any real strategic threat to the State of Israel and the Jewish people, it is threat of us not being united.”
Presenting some painful statistics, Dr. Anita Friedman, president of the Koret Foundation, said, “We asked the following research question to American Jews: If the State of Israel ceased to exist, would you consider it a personal tragedy? Of those respondents over the age of 55, 75% said yes. Of the under 35s, only 30% said yes. Members of the younger generation of American Jews aren’t necessarily all critical of Israel; they just don’t care. We have to think about how to inspire young people to want to cast their lot with the Jewish people.”

While Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, pointed to the growing political divide between Diaspora Jewry and the Israeli government, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University, said, “Israel is not the problem; it’s the solution. There’s nothing that inspires young American Jews like Israel. When they have a chance to experience Israel, it can be transformative. There’s something magical about this country and its people – Israelis need to understand that and use it for the greater good.”

Amb. Ron Prosor, head of IDC’s Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, said, “It’s a symbiotic relationship. We need to enrich the dialogue. The current dialogue on anti-Semitism and so on doesn’t speak to the young generation, which is why they don’t support us. We have to engage with them in a language that speaks to them. Israeli society needs to reach out to youngsters about what connects them personally – for example, tikkun olam.”

“There is no sense of urgency on this issue amongst Israelis,” said MK Dr. Nachman Shai, chair of the Knesset Lobby for Strengthening the Jewish People. “They take Diaspora Jewry for granted. I’m not sure that in a future war U.S. Jewry will stand by us as they have in the past. Right now it’s still viable, but very soon we will lose them, and this is a real strategic challenge for Israel.”

Foreign dignitaries such as Dr. Antonio Missiroli, assistant secretary-general of NATO, Amb. Hazem Khairat, Egypt’s ambassador to Israel, Ronnie C. Chan, thought leader and chairman of Hang Lung Properties Ltd., and Brett McGurk, special U.S. presidential envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, made keynote addresses throughout the conference. McGurk said that the U.S. was “committed to making sure that the vacuum left by ISIL is not filled by other extremist groups, including fighters backed by Iran, and we will make it clear to Russia that this must be the case in any final settlement.”

Leaders of the major Israeli political parties – including Yair Lapid, chairman of the Yesh Atid party, Avi Gabbay, chairman of the Labor Party, Tamar Zandberg, chairwoman of Meretz, and Orly Levy-Abekasis – also addressed the attendees. In his traditional keynote address closing the Herzliya Conference, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said, “Israel is thriving. The economy is in an excellent state. We are strong in security, and Israel’s position in the world is growing stronger. There have been breakthroughs in our relations with the Arab states. But there are still clouds looming, and we are in a period whose end we can’t predict. We must show leadership, responsibility, and more creativity in coming up with solutions.”

“It’s so clear to me as a Jew that we need to help people who are facing genocide.”

– Joey Lou, founder of Israel at Heart and Star Farm Ventures

Before President Rivlin’s address, Jonathan Davis, IDC’s vice president for External Relations, head of the Raphael Recanati International School, and moderator of the conference’s closing session, praised the organized and efficient manner in which Gilead prepared and conducted the Herzliya Conference. “The events of this week added even more depth to the conference’s already rich agenda,” he said.

Speaker of the Knesset Yuli (Yoel) Edelstein perhaps best summed up the Herzliya Conference’s overarching perception of Israeli national resilience in his keynote address. “What do I tell people when they ask me the secret to Israel’s success?” he said. “I say that despite the wars we have had to face, we never let ourselves focus only on security. We always worked on other things – culture, science, economy, education – at the same time.”

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
A friendship between two IDC Herzliya students forged through a shared passion for soccer – or, as it is known in their countries, fútbol – may well start a new IDC Herzliya sports tradition.

Moises Levy, a first-year communications student from Mexico, and Ariel Goldenstein, a first-year government student from Chile – both of them Raphael Recanati International School students – met at the beginning of the school year in September. It did not take long for them to discover their love of the game, and from there it took even less time for them to begin organizing friendly matches with other students.

As they enjoyed the weekly games, they realized that the next logical step would be to organize the matches into a more formal sort of tournament to include as much of the student body as possible. “We thought a tournament would be a great way to create bonds between the international students and the Israeli students,” Moises said.

Though the two groups share the same campus and have opportunities to interact, they study in different classes and in different languages.

The two friends turned to Or-Lee Kaidar, RRIS’s social and cultural director, for assistance.

“They came to me with such enthusiasm that it was hard not to get caught up in their excitement,” said Kaidar. “I know how much of an important role sports can play in bringing people together, and I thought they were really onto something.”

Kaidar presented the idea to Jonathan Davis, vice president for external relations and head of the RRIS. He happily gave his consent, and the IDC Amateur Soccer Championship was born. The school gave the students permission to set up a booth near the cafeteria during class breaks, and helped spread the word through their social media sites. The tournament garnered a great deal of attention, and team rosters were quickly filled.

Twelve teams of at least eight players each entered the tournament, which had something for everyone. Students and staff came to cheer their friends on. Some volunteered on the pitch to bring water to the players, others served as referees, and still others were on hand to return errant soccer balls.

“Each team played under a different color, and the final game saw Israel and Spain facing off. The match ended with a win for the Israeli red team, Sparta, which was led by captain Nir Mendelson, a third-year communications student from the Israeli school. “We couldn’t have gotten the tournament off the ground without the school’s help and encouragement,” said Levy. “We are proud to have been a part of this group effort. It was a great experience for us and the players, both international and Israeli.”

“Their students are our partners. Now we see the results. This is what IDC Herzliya is all about,” said Davis. “Congratulations to the lovely group of students who conceived this idea and saw it through.”

– Dalit Shmueli and IDC Herzliyan staff

IDC Soccer Championship Brings Together Israeli and International Students

Twelve teams compete in friendly, one-day tournament planned by RRIS students

Two generous funding from an anonymous donor, IDC was able to help support the games and each team was asked to pay only a minimal registration fee.
 Shortly after IDC Herzliya was approached by the Israel Lacrosse Association to start a lacrosse program, it was accepted into both the Pioneer Collegiate Lacrosse League and the Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association.

The ILA – the official governing body of lacrosse in Israel – is a member of both the Federation of International Lacrosse and the European Lacrosse Federation. It was founded in 2010 by Executive Director Scott Neiss to develop and promote the sport in Israel.

“We brought lacrosse to Israel six years ago, with the mission of making it the number one sport in Israel,” says David Lasday, the ILA’s COO. “Lacrosse is the fastest-growing sport in America, and the college level is widely considered to be the pinnacle of the sport. At the same time, lacrosse is quickly growing all over the world – in only six short years, Israel has been able to field a national lacrosse team ranked seventh in the world and second in Europe. The Israel Premier Lacrosse League, held in the summer, is the top lacrosse league outside of North America.”

The next step was to create a university league in Israel. IDC Herzliya’s Raphael Recanati International School, with students from more than 86 countries and several who play lacrosse, was a natural place to start.

“We loved the idea of including this sport in our program,” says Ilan Kowalsky, CEO of IDC Herzliya’s sports department. “It will be wonderful to see the Israeli and international students coming together to play this fantastic game.”

The IDC Herzliya men’s lacrosse team made its debut at the Northeastern Men’s Lacrosse Fall Classic in November 2017, with IDC alumni representing the team at the tournament. Bill Beroza, head coach of the Israel men’s national team, served as IDC’s interim coach, and IDC earned a 7–7 draw with the University of New Hampshire before falling 15–6 to Northeastern University. “This was an exciting opportunity for teams in the United States to play against high-quality international talent,” said Northeastern coach Chris Boland.

“We want lacrosse players from around the world to come and play for IDC, with the best ones playing for the national league,” says Israel U-19 national team head coach Seth Mahler, who has been instrumental in launching the program. “We believe the appeal of a lacrosse program will attract new students who are seeking a unique international educational experience, as well as the opportunity to play competitive lacrosse at the collegiate level.”

Lasday and Mahler are working hard to bring in new recruits. “We have held recruiting days at IDC and have identified players to start training in the fall,” says Mahler. “We also have a few lacrosse recruits coming to the school in the fall, from Israel and abroad. In addition, we are giving IDC a recruiting booth at the Wingate Institute during the 2018 FIL Men’s World Lacrosse Championships in July, which will include representatives from 48 countries, 2000 athletes, and 5000 fans from abroad. Moreover, every winter break we bring fifty high-school lacrosse players to visit Israel, including IDC. In the future, we would like to use the MCLA model to establish a women’s team at IDC as well.”

Jonathan Davis, IDC’s vice president for External Relations and head of the RRIS, says, “The Zionist supporters who made this possible are helping to put Israel and IDC on the map. They are to be congratulated for this. We are already receiving requests from outstanding U.S. students and lacrosse players to study at the Raphael Recanati International School. To me, this is heartwarming and morale-boosting. Go, lacrosse team!”

The IDC team will fly to the United States three to four times a year for league games. “We also see these away games as an opportunity for community building,” Lasday says. “We hope that every game will bring the Jewish community out to cheer the team, who will be representing not only IDC, but Israel as well.”

– Ariel Rodal-Spieler
Forget Oxford or Cambridge: four graduates of Bradfield College, one of the U.K.’s most exclusive boarding schools, have chosen to pursue their degrees at IDC Herzliya’s Raphael Recanati International School. London natives Louis Douglas-Home, great-nephew of former British Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home, James Green and his twin brother Toby Green, and Jonah Blackburn all agree that IDC offers them something that they never could have gotten in the U.K.

“We heard about IDC from a close friend, and both decided at the age of 15 that we were going to come to study here,” says Toby Green, speaking for himself and James, both of whom are students at the Sammy Ofer School of Communications. “We looked at dozens of universities in the U.K. and the U.S., but we love Israel and the way of life here really appealed to us.”

Douglas-Home had never been to Israel before and was also looking at other university options. When he heard about IDC from the Greens, he flew to Israel with his father for one night to visit the campus, and decided to apply to the Arison School of Business. “I wasn’t one hundred percent sure what to expect when I came,” he says, “but I knew how international it was here. In the U.K. I would have gone to university with all of the same people I went to school with. Here, we have friends from all over the world.”

Though some people outside of his close circle raised eyebrows about his decision to study in Israel, Douglas-Home says that his family “was very supportive of the idea — they thought it would be interesting for me to explore a different path than what others may have expected from me.”

Blackburn, also a communications student, also heard about IDC through the Greens. “I wanted to experience another culture — I think that gives you more depth of character,” he says. “My parents encouraged me to do something that was a bit ‘off the beaten track,’ and they couldn’t be happier for me now that I’m at IDC.”

Douglas-Home and the Green twins share an apartment in Herzliya, together with a French bulldog named Pablo. Blackburn shares an apartment with roommates near the IDC campus.

All four agree that the IDC Herzliya experience has exceeded their expectations. “I just fell in love with it,” says Blackburn. “It’s a small community, which you can’t get in other places. I didn’t know how it would be, as it’s a big change from what I’m used to, but everyone’s so gracious and nice.”

Douglas-Home says, “My courses are interesting, everyone is really friendly, and there’s always something happening on campus. People don’t just come for their lectures and then leave — they hang around. It’s so intimate here, like a family. At some of the other universities we checked out, with 50,000 people on campus, you’re just another number. Your professors don’t know your name, like they do here.”

“We’re having the best time,” says James Green. “There’s a really nice balance between academics and social life. We don’t have to sacrifice one or the other — we can get a really good degree but also gain so much outside of the classroom. There’s a lot of value in networking with people from around the world and having a well-rounded experience. You have to be a certain type of person, with a lot of curiosity, in order to pack up and go and live in a different country for a few years, so our fellow RRIS students are a really interesting group of people to be around.”

The twins’ sister, who attends the University of Nottingham, is interested in coming to IDC for a semester, while Douglas-Home’s younger sister, who just visited her brother, is seriously considering studying communications at IDC.

“We’ve had three friends that we went to Bradfield with come and visit us here, and they all said they were jealous of us,” says Toby Green. “There are so many unique and creative options here that you wouldn’t find at a typical British university — like the Entrepreneurship Startup class, open to the whole university, for example.”

All four believe that having attended university at IDC will benefit them in the future. “I think having studied in Israel will really give us added value when it comes to future job interviews,” says Douglas-Home. “It shows maturity and will set us apart from everyone else.”

— Ariel Rodal-Spieler
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