



AICE
THE AMERICAN-ISRAELI
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2007

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AICE Announces Winners of Schusterman Israel Scholar Awards

CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND — The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) announced today the recipients of the Schusterman Israel Scholar Awards. These prestigious awards are meant to encourage students to pursue academic careers in Israel-related fields by supporting their graduate studies.

This year's winners, who will each receive \$15,000 to support their studies, are Lauren Apter (University of Texas at Austin), Rachel Berry (New York University), Rachel Fish (Brandeis University), Jonathan Gribetz (Columbia University), and Joseph Ringel (Brandeis University). Past grant recipients who will have their awards renewed for 2007 include Eric Fleisch (Brandeis University), Joshua Gleis (Tufts University), Liora Halperin (UCLA), Alejandro Paz (University of Chicago), Ofer Sharone (Berkeley), and Guy Ziv (University of Maryland).

"Universities throughout the country need more scholars to teach courses about Israel so students can gain an accurate view of Israel's history and culture," said AICE President Howard Rosenbloom. "Many students are discouraged from pursuing degrees in Israel studies because few opportunities exist for young scholars to teach the subject. We believe each of these students has great potential for making important contributions to the field of Israel studies, and we're grateful to the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation for helping us create a cadre of future scholars."

AICE's Executive Director, Mitchell Bard, added, "We are concerned that most courses about Israel focus

on the conflict with the Arabs, but a full understanding of Israel requires discussion about the many other facets of Israeli society, culture and politics. By supporting aspiring scholars from a range of disciplines, and a variety of perspectives, we hope to encourage a new generation of educators who can expose students to all aspects of Israel.”

Lauren Elise Apter is a Harrington Doctoral Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2000, Apter completed an M.A. at the University of Chicago that focused on Holocaust remembrance in the United States. Her doctoral studies at the University of Texas have included the fields of Jewish History, British Empire, and the Modern Middle East, as well as Hebrew Language and Literature. Apter’s dissertation, Before Exodus: Jewish “Illegal” Immigration and the Decolonization of British Palestine, 1936 – 1946, traces the demise of British rule in Palestine to policy decisions regarding Jewish refugees throughout Britain’s colonial empire and especially to restrictions placed upon Jewish immigration into Palestine in the years leading to the establishment of Israel.

Rachel Berry is a first year Ph.D. candidate in Israel Studies at NYU’s Joint History and Judaic Studies Program. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 2006 with a B.A. in Judaic Studies and History. Berry’s interests include the development of Yishuv society, gender and nation construction, and the relationship between self and collective narrative. Her previous research includes “Convergent Enterprises: A Comparison of Zionist Women from the U.S. and Eastern Europe in the Yishuv.”

Rachel Fish is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University, with a concentration in Israel Studies. Her dissertation will explore the evolution of the concept of bi-nationalism from its early expressions in pre-1948 Palestine to contemporary Israel. Fish’s research will shed light on a largely neglected and increasingly relevant topic in the field of Israel studies, allowing for the greater understanding of Israeli society.

Joseph Ringel is a Ph.D. candidate in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University, and is enrolled at Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchonon Theological Seminary. His previous research has focused on the history of the Jews in Islamic countries and on Mizrahi Jews in Israel. Ringel’s doctoral dissertation will focus on the social history of Israeli Sephardic Rabbinic thought and of the Sephardic

Orthodox Shas movement.

Jonathan Gribetz, a Ph.D. candidate in History at Columbia University, has focused his studies on the intellectual history of Zionism and the peoples of the Land of Israel. Gribetz completed his BA at Harvard University summa cum laude and a masters with distinction at Oxford University in Modern Jewish Studies. He is now a fourth-year doctoral student and is currently conducting archival research in Jerusalem on the extent and means of Jewish-Arab mutual understanding in late Ottoman Palestine. Working with Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, German, and French sources, Gribetz hopes to make a significant contribution to the intellectual historiography of this formative period.

The Israel Scholar Development Fund is a project of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization created in 1993.

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