



The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

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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 Ariel Movshovich (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Garrett Nada (George Washington University), Jason Olson (Brandeis University), Michal Raizen-Colman (University of Texas, Austin), and Shayna Weiss (New York University). In addition, previous award winners - Nava Dushi (Tel Aviv University), Rachel Fish (Brandeis University), Eric Fleisch (Brandeis University), Hillel Gruenberg (New York University), Liora Halperin (UCLA), Sara Hirschhorn (University of Chicago), and Sarah Anne Minkin (UC, Berkeley) - who have advanced toward their degrees had their awards renewed for 2010.

“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."

"We are proud to support this important project to help inspire a new generation of leaders to engage in writing, research and teaching about Israel," said Lynn Schusterman, President of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. The Foundation has been at the forefront of efforts to foster understanding and support for Israel on college campuses.

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."

Ariel Movshovich is a graduating senior of Emory University with a Bachelors degree in Judaic Studies and Business Administration and concentrations in Law and Organization and Management. This fall she is attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where she will be studying for a Master's degree in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Ariel has been an advocate for Israel on the Emory University campus for the past four years and spearheaded the Emory University Goizueta Business School study abroad program in Israel.

Garrett Nada is currently a senior at Brandeis University, with a double major in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and a minor in Hebrew Language and Literature. He will attend George Washington University's Elliott School for International Affairs and and pursue a Master of Arts in Middle East Studies.

Jason Olson is entering his first year as a Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University as a graduate fellow in the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. Jason received his B.A. in Hebrew Bible/Middle Eastern Studies from Brigham Young University. He has studied both Biblical and Modern Hebrew, as well as Arabic. Jason will be presenting on "The Red Heifer in Israeli Judaism" at the 2010 Association for Israel Studies Conference and intends to continue researching and writing on the different forms of Israeli Judaism and how they interact with politics in Israel.

Michal Raizen-Colman is a third year Ph.D. candidate in the Program of Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. She works with contemporary Hebrew, Arabic, and Francophone literatures focusing on notions of kinship and community in the context of Israel's unique multilingual environment. She recently completed a Master's report titled "Reflections of a Jewish *ibn 'arab*: Language, Identity, and Collectivity in Eli Amir's *yasmin*," which was nominated for the University of Texas Outstanding Master's Report Award. In her current research she reflects on the narrative strategies that emerge as Israeli authors, particularly of Middle Eastern and North African descent, grapple with the linguistic and cultural processes of loss and recovery inherent in the immigrant experience.

Shayna Weiss is a second year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. She graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University where she received highest honors for a thesis on religious women in the Israeli Defense Forces. She also is an alumna of the Drisha Beit Midrash program where she studied Jewish texts. With a focus on gender and religion in contemporary Israeli society, Shayna is especially interested in religion in Israeli media, and the politics of gendered public spaces in Israel such as separate beaches.

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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