



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) is pleased to announce the 2011-2012 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 Marissa Isaak (University of Arizona), Keren Fraiman (MIT), Jacob Jaffee (Georgetown University), Dana Yasur-Landau (George Washington University) and Ariel Zellman (Northwestern University). In addition, previous award winners who have advanced toward their degrees - Yoav Duman (University of Washington), Rachel Fish (Brandeis University), Hillel Gruenberg (New York University), Sara Hirschhorn (University of Chicago), Hannah Pressman (New York University), Shay Rabineau (Brandeis University), Michal Raizen-Coleman (University of Texas) and Shayna Weiss (New York University) - will have their awards renewed for 2011.

“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 to

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.”

Marissa Isaak is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography and Arid Lands Resource Science at the University of Arizona. She is working to complete her dissertation, “Israel’s Desalination Experiment: Solving the World’s Water Woes.” She holds a Graduate Research Assistantship at the Water Resources Research Center where she assists with their AzIP (Arizona-Israel-Palestine) program, a collaborative that brings together top water managers from Arizona with those in Israel and Palestine to solve issues related to transboundary water management. Marissa received her M.A. in Geography from the University of Oregon and completed her B.A. in Economics and International Relations at Claremont McKenna College in California.

Keren Fraiman will be starting her final year this coming fall as a Ph.D. candidate in International Relations and Security Studies at MIT. Her dissertation, “Not in Your Backyard: Coercion, Base States and Violent Non-State Actors,” focuses on the efficacy of coercion in inducing states to contain violent non-state actors that reside within them. Keren is currently a researcher with the Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism and was previously affiliated with the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. She served in the

IDF School of Leadership and completed her B.A. in Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

Jacob Jaffe is a Ph.D. student in International Relations at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. His graduate research has focused on the study of international discord as a product of deep-seated philosophical differences between the states. His dissertation will investigate the root causes of enduring rivalries in international relations and will attempt to use this knowledge to explain the Arab-Israeli conflict and possible avenues for reconciliation in the future. Jacob completed his B.A. in Political Science at Brown University.

Dana Yasur-Landau is completing the first year of her Ph.D. program in the field of Political Science at the George Washington University where she studies Israeli-Arab relations and Israeli media and society. Her dissertation topic will deal with conflict resolution and the Arab-Israeli conflict and she hopes to focus her doctoral studies on Israeli society and political culture. Dana has taught at Tel-Aviv University, the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya and the Open University. She completed both her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Ariel Zellman is in the fifth year of his Ph.D. studies in Political Science at Northwestern University. His research investigates why Israel has been willing to withdraw from some disputed territories and not others over the course of the Arab-Israeli peace process. In particular, it focuses on the relationship between traditional Jewish narratives of homeland and popular public discourse on national identity in shaping Israeli attitudes toward territorial compromise. To bolster the global reach of his studies on national territorial claims Ariel has researched comparative cases in Armenia, Kosovo and Serbia. He completed both his B.A. and M.A. in Political Science at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.