

Dartmouth Sophomore Wins National Jewish Academic Innovation Award

Cameron Isen '19 was chosen from thousands to receive the prestigious 2016 Jewish Academic Innovation Award.

19 year-old Cameron Isen, a sophomore in Dartmouth college, was awarded the Jewish Academic Innovation Award this past Sunday, due to his in-depth re-



10th annual Birthright Group

search paper that used modern, western academia combined with the age-old Jewish academic style of the pilpul to analyze contemporary matters under the light of Jewish tradition. The student was one of ten handpicked university students from around the United States that gathered at the Hilton in Carlsbad, CA on February 7 for the annual Sinai Scholars Academic Symposium to present their papers and co-won the award alongside Shlomit Ovadia of California State University, Northridge.

Isen presented a ten-page research paper that analyzed the historic place of secular wisdom in the life of a Torah-observant Jew. The meticulously researched paper cited more than a dozen biblical and Talmudic sources and used writings from the 20th Century Talmudic scholar, Saul Lieberman as a guide. In the paper, the author contrasted passages of the Talmud that disapprove of secular learning against Jewish laws that were clearly developed due to secular understandings of the world. Like-

wise, the paper delved

into the life of Maimonides, who famously partook in secular wisdom as a medical doctor, maintaining his belief that secular education is a necessary step to understanding G-d.

The panel of scholars judging the event, including NYU professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, PhD, Professor of Comparative Religion at the Academy for Jewish Religion, Tamar Frankiel, Rabbi Shlomo Yaffe, Dean of the Institute of American and Talmudic



Cameron and the CrossfitRabbi



Teffilin at the Wall

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

Passover Seders:
April 22nd and 23rd
At the Chabad Tent

Sinai Scholars: The Core
18th Session

Lag B'Omer Celebration
May 26th
At the Connecticut River

Annual Green Key Kosher Barbeque
May 20th, Webster Ave

Graduation Shabbat Dinner
Celebration
June 10th

Reunions June 17th

Mendel Grays Bar Mitzvah
August 19,20
Alumni Hall and Hanover Inn

These are just some of the things going on this term at Dartmouth. For more information or to be informed about other events please sign up to for our list by e-mailing Chabad@Dartmouth.edu Or visit our Website at www.dartmouthchabad.com

Please Visit our website at

www.DartmouthChabad.com

Stay informed and up to date is easier then ever with the goings on at Chabad at Dartmouth.

Please Donate online at our website, save a stamp.

Soul Maps

Hearing "Jewish mysticism" used to make me think of Madonna and Kabbalah, so I was very excited when Rabbi Gray approached me

about an opportunity to learn more through Soul Maps and the Tanya. My dad had studied the Tanya a while back, and it had always seemed so profoundly puzzling to me that I had never bothered to look further into it. Rabbi Gray's Soul Maps proved to me that a basic understanding of the Tanya was not only accessible but also applicable to my everyday life. Since taking the course, I have used what I learned to keep a more positive and pragmatic attitude when confronted with obstacles and stress. The struggle of the beinoni is a comforting reminder that I am not alone in the challenge of choosing to do what is right. I am thankful I took the course because of the positivity and stick-to-itiveness it has added to my life, and I look forward to future opportunities to learn more with the Grays.

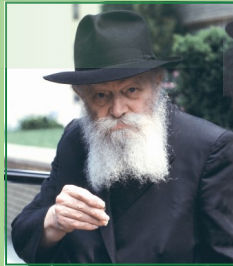
Sam Haskel '16

Rabbi Gray's Jewish education course, "Soul Maps," allowed me to think about the way I think about everything. My grandfather's name is Abraham and, for as long as I can remember, I have been wrestling with God. "Soul Maps" allowed me to frame a context for my wrestling as what a beinani does countless times a day, every day. I aspire to maximize the sleeping tsadik inside me by not giving my evil thoughts the garments they need to make me a rasha. This class gave me a new vocabulary of ethics.

Robert A. Kaufman, MALS '16

The Rebbe...

... It was with pleasure that I received regards from you and your husband, through Rabbi Joseph Weinberg, upon the latter's return from his visit in your community. It was a double pleasure to hear from him about your and your husband's warm and willing response to the task of unifying the Jewish families in your area and bringing them closer to the practice of Judaism, especially that your husband has taken it upon himself to teach the children, which is of increased importance in our times, for today it is the children who influence their parents.



Certainly you and your husband are aware of the principle of "specific divine providence"—a principle that is a mainstay of our faith in general, and of the teachings of Chassidism in particular. "Specific divine providence" means that every event, great or small, that occurs in the world, whether involving an inanimate object, a growing thing, an animal or a human being, in its every detail and sub-detail, does not occur by chance, God forbid, but is specifically ordained by God as part of His intentions and purpose in His management of the world.

Therefore, it goes without saying that when a Jew finds himself in a distant corner of the world, far from his homeland, far from any established Jewish community, this is certainly not by chance. This Jew should see himself as an emissary of the Omnipresent through whom God's word may reach also this corner of the world, bringing about an increase of justice and righteousness among all its inhabitants, and spreading the teachings and observances of Judaism among its Jews.

In such a case, one should not look upon the number of individuals that one has the opportunity to influence. Our sages have said, "Whoever upholds a single Jewish soul, it is as if he has upheld an entire world." If this is true at all times, how much more so does it apply to our generation, after the destruction, Heaven forbid, of such a significant portion of our people. Today, every surviving Jew is a "brand salvaged from the fire" who must not only fulfill his own role, but also take the place of those who perished in sanctification of God's name . . .

Reprinted with permission of Chabad.org your one stop for Judaism and Jewish information

Law and Rabbi Dov Greenberg, co-director of Chabad on Campus at Stanford University. The young scholars collaborated with a group of mentors to prepare these papers that cover subjects like the ethics of euthanasia, the mystery of Jewish survival, and the relevance of the Ten Commandments.

The Sinai Scholars Society, a joint project of Chabad on Campus international and the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, has been helping educate Jewish college students about their Jewish heritage since its founding in 2006. Each year, over 2,500 students from 120 universities attend 8 courses as well as a Shabbat dinner, a field trip, and a closing gala event. Upon completion, participating students write a 5-page analysis paper, with many of those expanded to research papers that are considered for the academic symposium.

"We are so proud of Cameron for receiving this prestigious award," said Rabbi Moshe Gray, Co-Director of Chabad at Dartmouth. "I was excited to see that the incredible amount of work he put into his impressive paper was recognized and I can definitely vouch that it could not have gone to a more worthy participant. The entire Dartmouth community can be extremely proud of this devoted young man."

"I am so impressed by the quality of the research and the amount of work that went into these winning papers," said Rabbi Dubi Rabinowitz, Director of the Sinai Scholars Society. "The program thrives on three key principles, which include discovering your Jewish heritage, connecting and networking with other Jewish students on campus, and learning to become an empowered Jewish leader."

"Congregations to this year's winners of the Jewish Academic Innovation Award," said Rabbi Yossy Gordon, Executive Vice President of Chabad on Campus International. "The Sinai Scholars Society offers thousands of young Jewish university students the chance to truly explore their Judaism. Thanks to programs like Sinai Scholars, the college years are often a time when students build a strong connection to their Judaism that lasts a lifetime."

Published twice a year by Chabad at Dartmouth

Directors: Rabbi Moshe and Chani Gray
Chabad at Dartmouth is a division of Lubavitch of NH, under the direction of Rabbi Levi and Shternie Krinsky

22a School St., Hanover, NH 03755 (603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
Chabad@Dartmouth.edu

Achim L'Chaim Visit Dartmouth: By Samantha Stern '19

Chabad at Dartmouth was fortunate to host three members of the Israeli nonprofit organization Achim L'Chaim – Brothers for Life – from January 21st through 24th this winter term.

The organization is devoted to helping injured soldiers reclaim their lives through individual and group mentoring; financial, medical, and educational aid; and vocational programs and internships. Within the organization, Israeli veterans are seen not as victims, but as individuals capable of overcoming their traumas and returning to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Built on the values of ahavat achim (love of brothers), netina (giving), and yishuv hadaat (a healthier state of mind), Achim L'Chaim is defined by the selfless giving of its members. The organization's leadership firmly believes that mentally and/or physically wounded soldiers are the best resources for one another during the healing process. Within the organization, injured soldiers can work together, pursue their interests, and reintegrate into society through a series of funded programs, ranging from sports teams to music and photography projects. Another critical component of the organization is its delegations. Each year, Achim L'Chaim sends its members to cities worldwide, where they are adopted by host families.

Birthright visits the Israel Defense Forces: by Professor Lewis Glinert
Posing with my students at the Hatzor airbase in front of one of the French-built Super Mystère supersonic fighters that flew in the 1967 and 1973 wars, I suddenly realized that their own parents were just children when this great plane flew. But my adrenalin was flowing. I was a high school senior (a 'sixth-former') in London during those miraculous days of June 1967, breathlessly following every report in the British media. No faddish Israel-phobia in Britain back then. I knew as much about the IAF's planes as Jane's Aircraft could tell me. The Ouragan, the Vautour, the Super Mystère, the Mirage, the Phantom F-4. Having served in my high school's air cadets, travelling to school every Monday in the uniform of the Royal Air Force, I knew a thing or two about aerodynamics and meteorology. But never did I dream that I would be sitting in a multi-million dollar flight simulator at Hatzor airbase as we did this week. Were my students similarly wowed? Or have they already sat with too many joysticks and virtual realities for it to mean what it did to me? But maybe some of them will have picked up on the fact that an Iron Dome battery is positioned at Hatzor. Well within reach of Hamas. And something to give us all pause.

"It wasn't until I lost an eye in Gaza that I learned how to see". I have no words to describe what we saw the previous evening at *Brothers for Life*, a trail-blazing rehab center run by Israeli wounded veterans. Only they themselves can understand what they have gone through and what it takes to get back into normal everyday life. Each of these battle-scarred Jews had discovered a new meaning in life, building an organization in which every one of them is a brother for life – working through their memories, networking for work, lending their skills to others' families. In a country where social services, sadly, are poorly funded, *Brothers for Life* will have to be there when these young men are no longer young, and as the perennial cycle of bombardment and terror continues to haunt their husbands, wives and children, they will need to find new strengths and new solutions for sleeping through the night.

I couldn't repress the thought: were we not all of us in that room, Israelis and Americans alike, brothers in arms in both senses? In these treacherous times, when we are constantly hearing how American Jews, like the rest of the World, have turned their back on Israel, do these young vets not need us? As we all recited the blessings for the lights and sang Maoz Tzur, the old familiar Ashkenazi melody suddenly sprang to life – and so did those words 'Stronghold, my rock of deliverance'. Repeatedly, our hosts spoke not of 'Israel' but of 'defending the Jewish people'. They surely do. So too does every young Jew on campus who defends his or her people's right to its ancestral land. Dartmouth students and faculty have been much reminded recently of the power of experiential learning. This was precisely our experience that December evening of 2015. The Biblical motto of *Brothers for Life* "And you shall choose life" will be ringing in our ears for a long time to come.

Achim L'Chaim also engages in education, primarily by speaking to schools about the sacrifice the soldiers make and the ethics they employ while in combat.

In December, students on the Chabad at Dartmouth Birthright trip visited the organization's clubhouse, known as the Beit Achim. They were the first Birthright group to visit with the organization.

At the Beit Achim, students celebrated the second night of Chanukah with some of the wounded soldiers (a Middle Eastern meal of hummus, baba ganoush, roasted vegetables, and chicken skewers followed by platters of jelly-stuffed suf-ganiyah, which the Birthright participants quickly devoured). They were shown a video explaining the organization's mission, and were encouraged to ask personal questions of the soldiers at their tables. Many Birthright participants were deeply moved by the experience at the Beit Achim and expressed interest in having some of the group's members to campus. With Rabbi Gray, a group of them organized for three of the organization's members, Oshri Azran, Roi Otto, and Omer Levit to make the journey from Israel to Hanover.

On their first night at Dartmouth, the three gave a public lecture in Filene Auditorium in which they shared their personal stories. Azran was hit by a sniper's bullet while leading his unit. Otto was shot at point blank range by a terrorist in the West Bank during an undercover operation. Levit suffers from PTSD, having witnessed firsthand the death of many of his friends in the Second Lebanon War. The brothers also talked about the IDF's Code of Ethics, specifically discussing the concept of "purity of arms," which calls for IDF soldiers to take extra precautions not to harm innocent civilians, a policy that often-times places them at further risk of harm than soldiers in most militaries.

"The representatives from Achim L'Chaim were truly inspiration. Their compassion and resolve to share their story was of profound impact. It will be difficult for me not to consider the sacrifice that so many brave men and women make on a daily basis to defend Israel and Jews everywhere," said Cameron Isen '18.

Term in Pictures



"The greatest part [of the brothers' visit] was bringing my friends to the lecture. The soldiers' graciousness and openness made the event very valuable for the entire Dartmouth community," said Oliver Edelson '18. On Friday morning, Azran and Levit had the opportunity to meet with one of Professor Nurit Ben-Yehuda's Hebrew classes, providing students the chance to engage in dialogue with native Hebrew speakers. "Our conversation was carried out in both Hebrew and English. While the program [BFL] itself was interesting and certainly beneficial to those soldiers, what stood out to me was how each of the three spoke about camaraderie and brotherhood. There was an indisputable authenticity about all three and their dedication to the program," said Ha'a Hanohano '19.

Friday evening, the brothers attended a packed Shabbat dinner at the Chabad House. The dinner lasted several hours, and each soldier again told his story. The night also included introductions, during which the undergraduate and graduate students (including many new faces) remarked on why they love the Jewish homeland. Students, even those who had not been to Israel, praised Israelis' steadfastness, entrepreneurship, innovation, genius, geniality, and warmth. Many said that Israel was more than welcoming. It was home. "The Shabbat table was unusually quiet while Oshri, Roi, and Omer spoke, and everyone was captivated by their stories. We went around the table for introductions and heard from about 50 Dartmouth students the reasons why they love Israel, which was really powerful," said Sarah Cohen '18. Jaclyn Cohen '19 simply described the experience as "grounding."

"What most blew me away about Oshri, Omer, and Roi from the incredible Brothers for Life organization was their unfaltering positive attitudes and outlooks on life. Though they had each faced tremendous adversities in their missions to defend the Jewish homeland, they managed to look at these experiences through a highly optimistic lens and focus on only the benefits that their injuries have provided them," said Noah David '19. "To refer to gunshot wounds as 'one of the best things to ever happen to me' largely changed my perspective on life, by teaching me how much there is to gain from any perceived setback I may encounter."

For some, the brothers' visit was life-changing. Jordan Kastrinsky '16 had been considering moving to Israel, but Levit's words solidified his decision to make Aliyah. This November, he will join the IDF. The soldiers' words crystallized for Kastrinsky that he needed to follow his passion. "Seeing the life the soldiers lead after serving is admirable and amazing, and I want it," he said.

Throughout the weekend, the soldiers were also given a taste of the Dartmouth experience. Together, the brothers and a group of students played pong in a fraternity basement, went to a Dartmouth vs. Cornell hockey game, and ventured to nearby White River Junction and Woodstock. Azran, Otto, and Levit also spoke at a Hillel bagel brunch on Sunday, before departing. "The entire social hall of the Roth center was filled with eyes locked on the speakers, and students left in a buzz about how nice the event was. Having the soldiers at our bagel brunch was without a doubt one of the highlights of our winter," said Jonah Kelly '18