



**ANNA SOBOL LEVY FELLOWSHIP  
2007-2008**



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## Meet the Fellows

**Lico Friedler** got released from the army in July 2005, after 6 years of service in different commanding and instructing positions. He took part in the 2002 Homat Magen operation, and various special missions with his unit "Egoz" (counter terrorism and anti gerila unit). After he got released he hiked the 2650 miles Pacific Crest Trail. Today is learning for his first degree in Economics, Philosophy and Political Science. This is his First year as an ASL coordinator.

**Lyndsey Williams** is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army Ordnance Corps. She graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Anthropology, concentrating in Archaeology. She loves to travel and enjoys learning about people from all different cultural backgrounds. As a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Command (13<sup>th</sup> Coscom) she will be stationed at Fort Hood, Texas during her military career. As of yet, she has no set plans for her life after the army, but she has plenty of ideas and is looking forward to her next grand adventure.

**Bill Yang** recently earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Justice and Criminology from the College of New Jersey in May 2007. Also a graduate of Army ROTC, he received his commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army and branched Field Artillery. Bill has striven to diversify his experience in Israel. For example, he completed a Basic EMT course for Magen David Adom and volunteered on a few shifts; he organized a variety of intramural sports; played for an Israeli flag football team; trained with Israeli Special Forces, and he even managed to pull a few shifts of security at several Israeli clubs. Upon completing his studies this year, he will finish his officer training and report to the mighty 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div.

**David Zivnuska** graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in May 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Aeronautics and a minor in Homeland Security. Upon returning to the United States after the fellowship, he will commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy and immediately report to Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida to begin training as a Student Naval Aviator. While on fellowship, David also successfully completed the Executive Certification Program at the International Institute for Counterterrorism and participated in the excavations at Tel Ashkelon.

## City of David and Memorial Gardens Tour



*Susie, Bill, Lyndsey, Lico, and David (left to right) stand in front of the bear display at Jerusalem City Hall.*

the fellows proceeded to the City of David. While there, the fellows were introduced to the city that started Jerusalem on its path to becoming known as the “Holy City.” The tour of the archaeological park included a glimpse into structures associated with David and the Davidic-line of kings, as well as a moist stroll through Hezekiah's Tunnel – part of the water system of the City of David.

Proceeding from here, the group met up with City of David Tours to pick up segways and a tour guide for a trip through the Jerusalem Memorial Gardens, overlooking the city along ridges from the south. This area also includes the old High Commissioner's Palace from the British Mandate period, now home to the UN Headquarters that maintain the 1948 demarcation line that separated Jerusalem between Israel and Jordan. Also in this park lie remnants of the ancient aqueduct system that fed fresh water to the Temple Mount during the First Temple Period. Perhaps most significantly for the purpose of the Fellowship, these gardens provide a striking view of the Jerusalem vicinity, putting into context Jerusalem's place on a hill resting within a bowl in the mountains. The view from this location also gave a good glimpse of the security fence in the area.

The fellows' first trip of the 2007-2008 fellowship year included a summary view of the city and vicinity, with particular focus on touring the City of David and Memorial Gardens south of Jerusalem. This trip intended to provide the Anna Sobol Levy fellows a brief historical and geographic overview of the area, so as to create a framework with which to better understand the year and experiences to come.

After a brief drive through the city to see some of the major social and cultural areas, including Zion Square, the Israel Museum, Gan Soccer, and the governmental district, the program coordinator, Lico, and



*Lico, Susie, and Bill suited up and ready for the segway tour.*





## Sderot and Kibbutz Sa'ad



*Members of the Sderot community address OSA and the ASL fellows about their life under regular bombardment from Gaza.*

The trip to Sderot was conducted in conjunction with Office of Student Activities and consisted of two parts. During one part of the trip, the group was taken to a school in Sderot where they listened to a gentleman discuss daily life in Sderot and the trials and tribulations one faces while living with daily rocket fire. After the talk, participants were given the opportunity to meet everyday citizens who live in the area - students, teachers, and parents. It was fascinating to hear them describe what their life was like. While what they described was terrifying at times, at other times they described a life very similar to what all other people lead, with work, and school, and time with their family.

During the second part of the trip, the fellows were taken to a kibbutz about 3

kilometers from Gaza City. The woman who conducted the tour there told us the history of the kibbutz (it supplies the french fries for every McDonald's in Israel) before showing a film documenting the success of the Jewish people in the region. She warned that if at any time one hears a loud siren, they are to duck and cover their head. While one ultimately wants to be someplace safe and sturdy if a rocket is being aimed at you, very rarely does the siren afford much time to do anything other than duck and cover your head. The reason for this became clear when she took us onto the roof of a lookout tower and we saw just how close the Gaza Strip was. Surprisingly, from a distance, the city looks very developed. We were warned, however, that inside it consists of gang warfare and unchecked violence.



**View of Gaza City from the watchtower in kibbutz Saad**

The fellows learned a lot on their trip to Sderot about what it means to live under constant fear. They also learned a lot about how much the region has changed since the IDF left the Gaza Strip, and how many of these changes have been detrimental to both the Israelis near Gaza and the people living in Gaza. While there had been some rocket fire in the morning while on the way there, everyone was incredibly lucky, and the town was not hit during the visit. Hopefully for the sake of the people of Sderot they have many days as quiet as the day that we were there.



## Bahad Ahad/Maktesh Ramon/Bio-Reserve

The adventure continued with the storming of Bahad Ahad, which is where IDF officers are trained. IDF cadets presented a slide show on the details of their training. An open Q&A followed, whereby the cadets not only discussed their impressions and goals, but also helped the fellows compare and contrast the U.S. military officer schools. Afterwards, they also managed to tour a section of the Maktesh Ramon range before spending the night at a near-by bio-reserve committed to ecological living in the Negev. Once inside the bio-reserve, the fellows were able to observe many different species of animals native to Israel, notable among them was none other than the notorious porcupine.



*The Maktesh Ramon crater site.*

The officer's training base was an excellent exploration of IDF officer fundamentals. The fellows benefited from having a representative from each phase of the officer course to provide their respective thoughts/feelings on the training. It would have been more enjoyable to have more time to interact with soldiers at random, as well a more engaging tour to supplement the power-point-presentation. Future fellows could further benefit from meeting already-commissioned officers afterwards and discuss with them their post-facto thoughts of the officer training.

The following is a summary of the information presented by the IDF officers:

All officer candidates were selected from among conscripts who had distinguished themselves in their initial period of service; Israel had no military academy as a source of officers. Three secondary schools stressed military training, however, and assigned students to military camps during summer vacations. Graduates of these high schools were given the rank of corporal on enlistment and most went on to become officers. After junior officers completed their obligatory service, they either shifted to reserve officer status or signed contracts (renewable every three to five years) as career soldiers within the standing ranks of the IDF.



*Within the confines of Base 1, the picture above features a few officer candidates and an officer from the IDF, as well as the ASL '08 Fellows, Lico, Lyndsey, Bill, and Dave (left to right).*

The IDF course for officer candidates was conducted at a single base but was divided into three types: the six-month infantry course for infantry and paratroop units; the two-month combat arms course for officers in armor, artillery, engineering, and air defense; and the two-month basic officer course for all candidates for the support services. The latter two courses were each followed by specialized three-month courses given by the corps to which the officer was assigned. Those who completed the course (the failure rate was as high as 50 percent) returned to their units commissioned as second lieutenants to be assigned as platoon commanders. Such officers generally serve for two further years of active duty, followed by many years of reserve officer status.

### **M-16 Range for Anti-Terrorism Training**



*Dave, Susie, Lyndsey, Lico, and Bill (left to right) and our fearless Special Forces instructor, Sharon Gatt.*



This ASL training event was an exclusive opportunity made possible by Sharon Gatt, an Israeli Special Forces Commander and Chief of Operations for the Caliber 3 Shooting Range and Professional Training. The ASL fellows first ate breakfast at the Sadeh Bar ranch, where troubled youth work to produce organic dairy products. After consuming a hearty meal of shakshuka and yogurt, it was onward to warrior-forging. At Sharon’s training facility near the Herodian, the group conducted close-quarters, anti-terrorism M-16 training. Specifically, the course covered critical soldier tasks such as (a) basic anti-terror shooting with an M-16, (b) advanced anti-terror shooting with an M-16, and (c) movement drills with an M-16.



*Body positioning with the M-16 (from left to right: Susie, Dave, Lyndsey, and Bill)*

Experience at the firing range was perhaps the most valuable to date. It was the first time the fellows were able to participate in actual training—completely hands-on from start to finish. The intensity and passion with which the class was conducted was truly inspiring. Likewise, the quality of the training was amplified by the professionalism and practical experience of all the instructors, not to mention the wealth of constructive, on-the-spot feedback they provided. The only improvement would be allotting more time to develop and hone the skills learned in training.

## **Visit to IDC's International Institute for Counterterrorism**

The Interdisciplinary Center of Herzliya, just north of Tel Aviv, houses one of the world's most recognized think tanks working in the international response to terrorism: The International Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT). Primarily manned by former IDF officers involved in anti-terrorism or related units, and supplemented by several prominent members of the international academic community, the ICT attempts to provide government, military, law enforcement, and academic institutions tools and



solutions to dealing with terrorism on a social and policy level.

The ICT offers a variety of programs to interested parties, including an Executive Certification Program. This intensive, three-week course covers six topics in counterterrorism to provide academics and practitioners a fundamental level of understanding for dealing with the terrorist mentality of today.

Dr. Eitan Azani, a retired colonel in the IDF intelligence branch who specialized in combatting Hezbollah in the Second Lebanon War, currently acts as the ICT's assistant director. Dr. Azani was kind enough to speak with the fellows about the current state of terrorism, its evolution since the 1960s, and its methods in a post-modern society.

Dr. Azani's primary theme through his discussion was to establish the essence of *da'wa* - "the call" that is the missionary arm of Islam – and how it has been adapted by Islamic extremists to effectively circumvent Western legal and social defenses. Because *da'wa* is seen as a soft pressure and predominantly humanitarian in method by providing education, materials, and assistance to community members in need, manipulations are often left unhindered or disguised entirely. Likewise, this provides extremists with the possibility to continue spreading their ideology and methods without restraint because they do not cause any directly evident harm to Western society. However, Western legal systems have slowly adapted since 9/11 to be able to counter the finance trail.



*The International Institute for The International Institute for Counterterrorism is a part of the Interdisciplinary Center, operating out of the faculty of Government and Policy.*

## IDF Air Force Museum

The trip to the Air Force Museum was both interesting and entertaining. While there, the fellows took a guided tour of the both the museum and the air field that displays all the aircraft used by the IDF over the years, including several captured enemy aircraft.



*In step with aviation appreciation.*

The tour covered the history of Israeli Air force and some of its more prestigious units and as well as covering some of the airplanes it has flown during the course of this history. While many were familiar, being imported from the United States, some were very alien, coming from various European countries.

A couple, particularly one from Russia and one from Iraq, were of great interest as those were captured by Israeli Air Force personnel or were brought to Israel by defectors.



*Bill and Lyndsey get to the chopper.*





The tour guide talked about the annual fly-by that the IAF conducts over Auschwitz and told the story of the first pilot to conduct this now famous event. She spoke of a plane that, after being sold to Argentina, was later found to be of great historical importance and was therefore re-purchased by the Israeli government. The Argentinians, recognizing the significance of the plane, sold it to them for all of one U.S. dollar! Also covered was an Israeli-made aircraft that never developed past its prototypes because the outside world was so nervous of it that funding was cut off and the government could no longer sponsor the project.



*Dave, Lyndsey, and Bill standing in front of an F-15 I on display.*

At the end of the tour, a video presentation about the IAF, documenting its history and its people was shown in the fuselage of a Boeing 707. It discussed the training that Air Force personnel go through, and the kind of life they lead while in the service. It detailed the many benefits reaped by being in the IAF and talked about the sense of community its members feel. In many ways, it sounded much like what United States military personnel say about their own units.

## **IDF Armor Museum – Yad La'Shiryon**

Moving from aircraft to armor, the fellows next toured the IDF armor museum in the Ayalon Valley city of Latrun with Tom, an IDF tank commander. The museum holds display models of all tanks and armored vehicles used in the Israeli Defense Forces since the 1940s, including a jeep from that period that is still used in service today. Other models include armored vehicles from other nations dating as early as the First World War. The museum itself is crowned on the hill by a British Mandate police station that served as a prison for members of the Jewish underground. The structure still boasts the scars of combat from when Jewish forces took the building. A brief film describes life and brotherhood in the tank forces, and the many victories they have had in battle, sometimes defeating opponents when outnumbered 15 to 1.



Tom, an IDF tank commander, discusses the use of tanks in an urban battlefield

Tom, a Sherman tank commander in the reserves, discussed his three and a half years of experience in the tank corps, relating the relationship between a soldier and his tank as being one of brotherhood and mutual dependence. He attempted to convey the cramped, over-heated conditions that soldiers face when in a tank during heavy combat, and was supplemented by a cutaway model of a Sherman tank in the museum's display. The fellows turned the conversation to try an understand the tank's place in urban and unconventional settings, testing the limits of what Tom was able to say about the matter.

Following the museum, Tom and the fellows went to Abu Gosh, famous Israel-wide for its humus. After having heard much about the place, it nice to top off the year by finally enjoying some of the village's product.



*David, Lico, and Bill commanding Merkava tanks with Tom forging the way in the foreground.*



## Words of Advice for Next Year's Group

As part of our experience over the last year, we, the 2007-2008 fellows, felt that there was much information that would be lost with no one else staying over to the next generation of fellows. In response, we would like to provide you with these few thoughts and suggestions to help better prepare you for life in Israel.

- Study up on Israel before you come so you have some idea of what you want to see and what is important for you to experience.
- Learn the Hebrew alphabet and some basics of the language in advance. It will make the first few weeks easier because it will mean you can read all the signs, even if you don't know what they mean yet.
- Come with an open mind that is ready to take in information, rather than simply outpouring your opinions.
- When you get here, find a community outside of Hebrew University that you can become a part of. It will help make Jerusalem feel more like home, and give you opportunities to break out of the "Rothberg Bubble."
- If you're military, keep training. There are gym facilities near by, and the fellowship takes no responsibility for your physical readiness. The gym near the Student Village is a pay facility and quite extensive, but there are free facilities and a track at the Givat Ram campus. If money is a concern, check this location out first. A free shuttle runs between campuses.
- Study, but don't take it so seriously that you lose sight of the experiences you could, and should, be having.
- Travel. Part of your fellowship is to immerse in the local regions and cultures. The best way to do this is to meet and talk with people you don't know, and especially those you don't agree with.
- Do not try to take two languages at once. While it's possible, it's a lot of homework. Choose either Hebrew or Arabic.
  - If you chose Arabic, consider studying the intensive summer courses before and after the academic year. This will give you three full years of language training with near fluent proficiency in Literary Arabic at the end.
  - If you chose Hebrew, try to study extra and skip a level to amplify your experience.
- Be prepared for a dramatic shift in bureaucratic delays. For example, shipments to Israel will reach the country within a short time, but once it is in customs, the package may take up to three months to reach you. This is **regardless** of rush delivery status.
- If there are activities you really want to see or do, notify your IDF liaison, the university, Larry, or Iris. If one doesn't work or can't provide the money, the others might.
- Make the most of your time and previous fellows. We are more than happy to answer questions, so feel free to contact us. There is a group on Facebook (Anna Sobol Levy Fellows) that you can use to network amongst yourselves and with those of us from '08.
- Network. Israel and the Middle East run off of personal networks of friends and colleagues. We already have a list going that we are more than happy to share upon request. Bringing some business cards with you will ease this tremendously in your own ventures. After all, in the fight against terrorism, "It Takes a Network to Beat a Network."