

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

2017 ISRAEL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ("MISHPATIM") TESTIMONIALS

Note: this summer marked the seventh offering of this program, created by Dr. Bryan Schwartz, and delivered by Dr. Daniel Ohanna and Dr. Schwartz at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Hebrew University Law School.

Dear David Asper, Asper Family Foundation, Dean of University of Manitoba Faculty of Law and Canadian Friends of Hebrew University,

Thank you for making the Israel and International Law course offered through the University of Manitoba possible for me to take part in. I have had the opportunity to travel to Israel numerous times in the past, however this experience was truly unique. I was concerned that the course might present a one-sided view of Israel and the issues the country faces, however I found that we were exposed to numerous perspectives and even issues that I previously knew nothing about. For this reason I was very impressed with the quality of the course itself - I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from our guest speakers, and the field trips that we took. I particularly enjoyed meeting with Supreme Court Justice Jubran, Guy Harpaz' guest lecture, and the tour we took of South Tel-Aviv where we learned about the refugee crisis.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from so many people, and engage critically and objectively with the issues Israel faces. The content of the course has influenced my opinions on numerous issues, because it provide an unprecedented opportunity to grasp the nuance and complexity of the issues Israel grapples with. I also thought the course was well structured and struck the appropriate balance between class time and free time, allowing us the opportunity to explore the country. Overall, the course itself was both enjoyable and educational, and I would highly recommend it both to those who have traveled to Israel in the past, and for those who have never been. Thank you again for making this opportunity possible.

Best,
Sarah Levy

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and the Asper Family Foundation,

Thank you so much for all of your support for the Mishpatim program. I have really enjoyed my time here in Israel and in this course. Through the course I was able to learn more about a new culture and society. I also traveled to the Dead Sea, Haifa, Nazareth, and Tel Aviv, in addition to the time I have spent in Jerusalem. This was a wonderful chance to experience a country that is full of rich history as well as some of the world's most important religious sites.

My experiences in this course were enriched by being physically present in Israel. I have an interest in immigration and refugee law, and through the course I was able to learn more about these issues as they appear in the Israeli context. Also, three of my dorm-mates were Israeli, one of whom happened to be a law student at Hebrew University. They invited me and another classmate to Shabbat dinner our first week in Israel. We also had conversations that helped me learn about the experience of Israel from people who were my own age.

My time spent in Israel as part of the Mishpatim course has been wonderful and unforgettable, so thank you again for your support, without which this program would not be possible.

Sincerely,
Segen Andemariam
Robson Hall law student

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and the Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to thank all those who made it possible for me to come to Israel to participate in this program. It has significantly increased my understanding of the issues and challenges that Israel has to deal with, a topic that I had next to zero understanding of beyond what I learnt from the news and social media back in Canada. In addition to gaining a more thorough and unbiased understanding of Israel, it also helped me appreciate a number of things about life in Canada (especially with Canada's legal and political system) while also revealed certain things that Canada could improve upon, when compared to Israel.

I sincerely hope that those who support this program will continue to do so, and continue to make it available to more and more students in the future, so they can share in this very beneficial and memorable experience.

Thank You Very Much,
Erik Gusdal

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and the Asper Family Foundation:

Thank you for providing my classmates and I with the opportunity to study in Israel. This program has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It has allowed me to learn about a subject that is completely new to me, travel far from home, experience several different cultures, grow closer with many of my classmates, and meet students from across Canada and the world.

Until May 2017, I had never travelled outside of North America. In addition to spending time in Israel, this trip has also given me the chance to explore Europe, thus fulfilling a life-long dream of mine. Studying in Israel has broadened my horizons in ways I never expected. To be honest, prior to this program, I knew next to nothing about Israel, its history, culture, or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Now that I have nearly completed the program I realize how much more I have to learn. Even more valuable than the time spent in lectures was the chance to mingle with Israelis and visit prominent sites in Jerusalem and Israel.

I will never forget my time at the Hebrew University. Your support for this program is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bethany Hutlet
Student of Robson Hall

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to thank you for the support you provided to the Israel and International Law program provided by the Hebrew University in partnership with the University of Manitoba. I appreciate being given the opportunity to learn about a different legal system and to contrast it with what I have learned as part of my own legal education back in Canada. Israel is a truly unusual place with a variety of unique economical, social, and legal challenges. I found this course valuable and I think it is important for this program to continue to be offered and further supported. I believe that accessibility to this program is important and valuable and your support is crucial to the further success of this program.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Homenko

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to personally thank you for your generosity and selfless dedication to ensuring a fulfilling educational experience for Canadian law school students through the Mishpatim program. The last 3 weeks have been an incredibly eye opening and sobering experience, from furthering my understanding of Israeli society and the unique difficulties it faces to rewarding day trips to incredible sites. It has been an extremely humbling and rewarding experience and I sincerely believe I've emerged with a more thorough and deeper understanding of Israel and the region.

Thank you once again for your selfless support of this program.

Sincerely,
Christopher Bélanger
Robson Hall Class of 2019

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I have enjoyed this program thoroughly. While the lectures were indeed fascinating, I found the exposure to Israel's distinct culture most valuable. I felt that through the various field trips I was able to experience the forces shaping the country in a way I haven't felt before. I have gained an understanding of how politics are a representation of issues on the ground and not merely the fatuous squabbling of politicians (though this will of course sometimes be the case). This awareness is something I can take back to Canada. Thank you for your generous support.

Connor

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

Thank you so much for making this opportunity happen! I knew very little about Israel before this trip, but I had heard great things from other students who had participated in the course in previous years. The course has surpassed my expectations as both a course and an experience. I enjoyed learning about the complex history of Israel, and field trips to the Supreme Court and the Knesset were valuable additions to my learning. I also appreciated that the course included field trips to places like the dead sea. Those trips ended up being educational in that we saw sides of Israel that we may not have normally seen.

In particular I want to highlight how great an experience I had in Tel Aviv, visiting the south side and learning about refugees from Africa who lived in that area. I didn't realize how

difficult it was to have a refugee claim processed here, and it was an eye opening experience learning about some of the social issues that exist in such a metropolitan city. It was also an inserting contrast to the trip to the start up nation centre.

The financial subsidy available for this course made it possible for me to participate, so I want to sincerely thank the funders of that subsidy.

Thank you!
Erin Wolfe

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to thank you for your support of this amazing program. I have truly enjoyed this incredible experience and will cherish it forever. I would not have chosen a better way to discover Israel for my first time. Learning everything from the political system to culture, as well as listening to all the interesting guest speakers and meeting the local population has been eye opening. The field trips are what really made the program so special. Being able to visit Masada and then spend the rest of the day floating in the dead sea will be a day I will always remember. I am sad it is almost over but grateful to have immersed myself in this new experience and have made so many new friends (especially being one of the few students not from the University of Manitoba). This program is worthy of your support and I would love to see it continued to be offered in the future. I will definitely be recommending it to future students.

Sincerely,
Anna Villani

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation:

Thank you for your generous support of the Mishpatim Introduction to Israeli Law course.

This course has broadened, and increased the depth of my understanding of Israeli culture and law. I am thankful for the opportunity to wrestle with the complex issues of integrating immigrants, doing justice towards the minorities, and protecting Israelis.

These are not simple questions, and I feel better prepared to discuss these issues at home in a way that does not gloss over the realities that are ever present in Israel.

Sincerely,
Scott Ellis

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and The Asper Family Foundation:

I truly appreciate your support of this fantastic program. It has been an amazing experience to come learn about a country and be given the opportunity to explore and see all these amazing historic and cultural sites. I believe this truly has opened individual's eyes about a country so different from our own, and shown it from another perspective. All of the field trips we have taken with the class and exploring on our time off has been such a unique experience that will be remembered for years to come! I would highly recommend this course to my colleagues.

I believe this program is very worthy of your support and I would love to see it continued to be offered in the future!

Best Regards,
Natalie Zamick

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I am a law student from the University of Calgary and have recently participated in the Israeli Legal Studies program offered through the University of Manitoba. I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your time, efforts, and funding which make this program possible. Without your support, I would not have been able to attend such an amazing class in a truly unique country.

My time in Jerusalem provided a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the land of Israel and to learn first hand of the issues and opportunities that face this country. This program allowed for unique experiences. Particularly, visiting the Knesset and speaking with a Supreme Court judge; two activities which I have been unable to do in Canada.

I am immensely grateful for your support of my participation of the program, and the participation of future law students.

Stephen Vincelli

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

Thank you very much for enabling me to travel to Israel to study Israeli International Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Without your support, myself as well as many of my peers would not have been able to take advantage of this wonderful experience. During my time studying here, I feel that I have further strengthened my Jewish identity and bond to the state of Israel, while also expanding my legal knowledge so that I can determine ways to positively impact Israeli law as a future Canadian lawyer. Beyond this, I enjoyed my time

outside of the classroom meeting other Israelis, learning about our differences and similarities, and exploring the beauty of Israel from the Baha'i Gardens of Haifa, to the overwhelming history at Masada, the Deadsea and the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and finally to the beautiful and lively beaches of Tel Aviv. Thank you so much for your generous donation in support of this wonderful and unique experience. I also want to thank everyone who dedicated their efforts and time into making this program take place this year. I hope to be back in Israel again soon!

Best regards,
Aleeza

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

Many thanks for this wonderful opportunity. I have learned so much! The program was fantastic and has greatly expanded my knowledge of the Middle East.

This has been an invaluable part of my legal education and I know it will enhance my career in the legal profession.

Sincerely,
Jane Harrington

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I greatly appreciate your support for the Israel International Law Program. It has been an incredible opportunity to learn about Israel and the differences between the Israeli and Canadian legal systems. I am leaving this program with an enhanced understanding of the legal and political issues facing Israel today.

I would not have been able to take part in this amazing program without your support and sponsorship.

All the best,
Ellie Einarson

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

Thank you for continuing your support for the Mishpatim International Israeli Law Program. Your support allows the program to continue to thrive and to give hundreds of other students like me the opportunity to come to Israel and learn at Hebrew University for a month. It was

an amazing experience that allowed me to learn about the unique political and legal atmosphere in Israel. I have been to Israel several times before, and it is a country that I feel a strong connection to and that I love to visit. This course gave me a more in-depth and balanced understanding of the inner workings of the country and that is something I greatly appreciate. I would recommend this program to anyone who asked me about it.

Best regards,
Benjamin Owens

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I want to take the time to thank you for your contribution to this program. This program allowed me to explore the roots of Israeli law and culture and to see many parts of Israel. My most memorable experience in the program was attending the Hebrew University Law Faculty's final banquet. It was amazing to meet and enjoy an evening with other law students that have different perspectives than law students in Canada. I was able to see Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and the Golan Heights during my time here. I know that this program is only made possible with the generous contributions of its donors and I hope to see this program continue and grow in the future.

Regards,
Mira Bokhaut
1st Year Law Student - Robson Hall Faculty of Law

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and the Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to take this time to personally thank you for the generous bursary that you have provided me to study at the Hebrew University. The Mishpatim program has provided me with a wealth of knowledge regarding the State of Israel, the Jewish people and the concepts of Israeli society including Start Up Nation. Without your donation, I would not be able to visit this country and most of my exposure would be from the mainstream media which does not provide an accurate portrayal of the State of Israel. In fact, prior to my visit I thought that Israel was a dangerous country to visit that was located in the Middle East. Now I realize that the State of Israel, is very safe and has a lot to offer the rest of the world. In fact, my visit to Israel is more than I ever could have expected. The people here are welcoming and the country is breathtaking. From my studies, I realize that the establishment of a Jewish state doesn't come without its complexities and tensions, however, with experiences like the opportunity you have provided me because of your generous sponsorship, being educated on this topic is a way for the world to see the importance of the establishment of the Jewish state in Israel. A nation for the Jewish people.

Excellent course and experience!

Kind Regards,
Kelly Kennedy

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

This experience has been one of the most enriching things I have ever done - from learning about Israeli history and the story of it's founding to viewing first hand some of the most important historical sites in the history of Western Civilization - it is something I will carry around with me for the rest of my life.

This would likely not have been possible without financial support and I would like to say thank you for allowing me to have this experience. I think it is a great thing for law students to do and hope future classes of Robson Hall students will have the same opportunity that I did.

Sincerely,
Brendan Forrest
Robson Hall Class of 2019

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to take this program. By learning the contents of this course while simultaneously experiencing the culture of Israel and witnessing some of the issues about which we have learnt, we have gained a more in-depth perspective that could not have been achieved in the classroom alone. The experience of witnessing the political, legal and social organization of Israel, and contrasting that to our own has been extremely valuable. As well, the experience of living in this country, though briefly, has been especially eye-opening for me. The ability to witness the culture and social organization of this country has taught me far more than I could have learnt from a classroom alone. I hope that this program continues for many years, and I will definitely recommend the course to future students.

Thank you for all of your support in making this program possible.

Sincerely,
John Isfeld

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to take this summer course. I am from the University of Montreal and opening up this option to the Montreal students is an amazing idea. This is my 4th time in Israel and I have learnt more than I ever did this time around. The lectures, field trips and reading material make it a well rounded program and allow one to fully be immersed in Israeli culture. I would highly recommend this program to future students as it allows one to understand a very complex situation in an impartial way with a dynamic group.

Thank you for this opportunity and I encourage the support of this amazing program to all Canadian students.

Ashley Weiss.

To David Asper, the Dean of Robson Hall, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Asper Family Foundation,

I would like to thank all those who made the University of Manitoba's Israel program possible. This class has given me a critical insight into one of the world's oldest and most complex problems through a unique prospective. I now, more than ever, appreciate the nuances that come with this part of the world. I feel as though my horizons have expanded and can now better understand the Middle East and that this will one day make me a better lawyer.

Many thanks,
Cole Gagne.