

RRIS Dean's List Ceremony 2022-2023

May 22 , 2024

I would like to invite the audience to take their seats. I would like to request the following professors to come to sit in the front row in their saved seats.

Dr. Yaron Timmor – Business

Dr. Yael Hadass – Econ

Prof. Tal Moran– Computer Science

Dr. Lesley Terris – Government

Prof. Yael Parag – Sustainability

Dr. Tal Azran – Communications

Dr. Limor Shtoots – Psychology

Ms. Sharon Zahavi– Entrepreneurship

I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated teams of the academic coordinators, the RRIS, External Relations and events and Ceremonies.

I am Jonathan Davis, Vice President of Reichman University, and the head of the Raphael Recanati International School.

Welcome to the Dean's list ceremony for students who excelled in the 2022-2023 academic year.

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to the ceremony conferring upon the outstanding students in the audience the prestigious status of being on the dean's list of this great international school and university. Also a special welcome to your parents and families.

For those of you whose parents and family are overseas, we embrace you this evening as you join us online, on behalf of all of them together with the rest of the individuals in this audience and university.

We congratulate you for your academic excellence.

The Dean's list ceremony is taking place in the midst of the observance of a number of important Jewish holidays and events.

Beginning with Passover, we observe the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, and mentally from slavery to freedom. This is the freedom we cherish to this day in the Jewish and Democratic State of Israel, based on the humanistic and Zionist spirit of Hertzl, Jabotinski, Ben Gurion, and Menachem Begin- the Reichman Spirit.

We observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, and realize the destruction and massacre of millions of Jews which took place because we did not have an Israel Defense Force and a Jewish State.

On Memorial Day, we remember over 25,000 individuals who have fallen in battle over the last ONE AN A HALF CENTURIES to protect the Jewish Community in Land of Israel, and later to defend the modern Jewish State.

Independence Day was difficult for us to experience this year in the midst of this never ending war. But we still took the time to bless the State of Israel and be grateful for our Jewish State.

On Saturday night we will observe a low key Lag Baomer. We will take note of armed rebellion initiated by the Jews of Judea and led by Simon Bar Kochba against the Roman Empire 19 centuries ago. The Bar Kochba revolt resulted in a total Jewish defeat. The Romans proceeded to crack down on the Jews and according to archaeological evidence, hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed. Many were enslaved and many thousands of Jewish refugees had to be relocated.

1900 hundred year ago we fought the Romans. Today we fight a Jihaddist Empire and Iranian proxies who wish to kill Jews and destroy the State of Israel. We have suffered a massive loss of innocent civilians, rape, torture, and genocide. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been taken into captivity, tortured, and raped.

The IDF has paid a very heavy price in fighting the Jihaddist Empire which stretches through Hamastan, Hizballastan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Qatar, and the Head of the Rattle snake in Teheran. Reichman University has the highest percentage of reservists called up to fight compared to all other universities in Israel. 4,500 students who make up 55 percent of our student body have been called up to fight for the State of Israel. Our students have also paid a very heavy price in making the ultimate sacrifice and injuries.

Please rise as I read the names of those who fell in action or were murdered during the swords of iron war.

Maj. (res.) Dor Zimel z"l Law and Government student. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War

Major Benji Trakeniski z"l, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy Graduate. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War.

Sergeant First Class (res.) Omer Balva z"l, Business and Economics student at the RRIS. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War.

Major (res.) Moshe Yedidya Leiter z"l, MBA in Healthcare Innovation Student. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War.

Sergeant First Class (Res.) Joseph Gitarts z"l, Computer Science Student at the RRIS. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War.

Sergeant First Class (Res.) David Schwartz z"l, Law and Government Student. Fell in action in the Swords of Iron War.

Omri Ram z"l, Economics and Entrepreneurship Student. Murdered in the Swords of Iron War.

Liam Shrem z"l. Business and Entrepreneurship Student. Murdered in the Swords of Iron War.

Ilay Nachman z"l. Business and Entrepreneurship Student. Murdered in the Swords of Iron War.

Only a few moments ago we were sadly notified of the devastating news that we have lost our 10th student in the Swords of Iron War. **Sergeant Major (Res.) Gideon Hay DeRowe**, a fighter in the Yam'am unit, fell in action in Gaza today. He graduated from Reichman University in 2018, after completing his business-law degree.

We will now observe a moment of silence in their memory.

Let us also remember our dear Idan Shtivi, our Sustainability and Government student who was taken hostage by Hamas terrorists and we pray for his safe return.

Joseph Gitarts of blessed memory was supposed to be with us tonight in order to receive the Dean's List award from Prof. Tal Moran and myself. He was number one in his class in computer science. We hope Joseph is looking down on us this very moment and we are now blessed to watch a video about Joseph.

I would now like to invite Joseph's sister, Ida Gitarts, to the podium to accept Joseph's certificate on behalf of his family.

The certificate reads:



Certificate of Recognition

Presented to

Joseph Gitarts Z"L

having achieved

Scholastic Distinction

**in the course of studies towards a B.Sc. Degree in
Computer Science during the 2022-2023 academic year**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Y. Hel-Or".

Prof. Yacov Hel-Or

Dean, Efi Arazi School of Computer Science

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Davis".

Mr. Jonathan Davis

Vice President for External Relations
Head of the Raphael Recanati International School

We will honor the event this evening by holding the annual Sarah and Zoltan Wind lecture, which has been a tradition since the first Dean's list ceremony in 1996, initiated by Prof. Jerry Wind.

Prof. Wind, a global marketing expert at the Wharton School of Business, is one of the founding members of the Reichman University.

It is my pleasure to introduce Prof. Anat Bronstein-Klomek, who will lecture on "Psychological Resilience- Life as a Gym".

Prof. Anat Brunstein Klomek is the Dean of Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology at Reichman University. Prof. Brunstein Klomek is a clinical psychologist and supervisor.

She completed her post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Columbia University in New York where she is still an adjunct researcher.

She was head of the Master's Program in Clinical Psychology between 2018-2021 at Reichman University. In the last years she is the academic advisor of the Israel Ministries of Health and Education as part of the national suicide prevention program.

She is currently involved in the various resilience intervention programs for IDF soldiers. Her primary research interests include suicide risk psychotherapy and technology in mental health.

During this war Prof. Brunstein Klomek has provided this university with immense resilience and outreach to all of the RU community in need of assistance.

I would now like to invite Lilach Kraaijenhagen, 1st year Business-Entrepreneurship student at the RRIS from the Netherlands to the podium for a musical interlude. She will be singing "Stand by Me". We will all stand by each other and together we will win.

I would like to invite Stephanie Miller, the head of recruitment and admissions at the RRIS together with the Student Administration team to confer the certificates.