

The Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences  
**The Harold Hartog School of Government and Policy**

Annual Report - October 2008

In the past year, the Hartog School of Government and Policy (the “School”) has become more focused on research, in order to become the locus of innovative policy-oriented research. The School has made major changes in personnel and projects to reflect this new mission. Since Professor Neil Gandal took over as Head of the School on December 1, 2007, this report covers the ten month period from December 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008.

**1. Building Foundations and Institutions:**

- International Advisory Board

We institutionalized the *International Advisory Board* that was initiated by Professor Yossi Shain (former Head of the School) and Dr. Gary Sussman.

This was accomplished by writing a governance document for the School Board, and obtaining the approval of the School Steering Committee in its meeting on December 26, 2007. The governance document went into effect on January 1, 2008. It established board member terms and a mechanism for re-appointing Board members as well as adding new board members.

- The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fellowships

The Goldman fellowships are given yearly to five junior fellows and one senior fellow with the aim of improving Israeli Public Service. Junior Fellows are selected amongst top graduate students in Political Science and Public Policy. The senior fellow is a senior public officer who joins the School for one year. In the course of that year the fellow has a tailor-made curriculum and works on a policy oriented project. The Goldman Fellowships are funded from a separate endowment that was given to the School by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation.

It has been difficult to fill the Goldman Senior Fellowship position, because the original contract required that the Fellow take an unpaid leave of absence from his/her position in order to receive the \$10,000 annual Fellowship. Professor Gandal and Dr. Ben-Simhon-Peleg, have been able to get the foundation's approval to a few critical changes in the contract, which will enable senior Fellows to keep their positions and spend one to two days a week as Fellows at the School.

The difference was remarkable. We received around 50 applications, and had a shortlist of seven outstanding applicants from various ministries and government agencies. Since

the award was not given the previous year, we selected two superb Fellows for the 2008-2009 academic year: The first, Ms. Galit Cohen, currently head of the Policy and Planning Division at the Ministry of the Environment. During her tenure, Ms. Cohen will be forming the infrastructure for an Environmental Forecasting Agency within TAU. The second Senior Goldman Fellow, Adv. Isaac Sabato, currently senior advisor to the General Director of Israel's National Insurance Institute. Adv. Sabato will be working on labor policy.

On July 6, 2008, the School held a meeting of past and present Goldman Fellows. The meeting of Past and Present Goldman Fellows year will become a yearly event for the Fellows with the aim of providing a networking framework that will enable the fellows to have an exchange of ideas. This coming academic year (2008-2009), we will initiate a specially targeted workshop for Goldman Fellows, in which they will be meeting senior public officers and discussing issues pertaining to the Israeli Public Service.

- Budget and Independent Revenue Raising:

The total budget allocation from the School's endowment amounts to approximately \$120,000. During the first seven years of its existence, the School had an average annual budget of \$300,000 from endowment sources. The large reduction in the budget from endowment sources was due to the exhaustion of a \$1.5 Million start-up fund. This fund enabled the School to have a relatively large budget from endowment sources from the 2001-2007 period. The start-up fund was exhausted by September 30, 2007. **Thus, the School's budget from endowment sources fell by 60% this year.**

Thanks to generous contributions by Chairman Stanley Bergman and other International Advisory Board members, as well "cost-recovery" provisions in a new large grant from the Pears Foundation (see below), the School raised more than \$80,000 in 2007-2008, and will likely raise at least that much in both 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. The Pears Foundation grant will also contribute to the School Budget in both 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. All large future School research projects will have cost-recovery built into them in order to insure that the School is able to support its ongoing activities. Thanks to these revenue raising policies and efforts, as well as significant cost-cutting measures, the School did not eliminate any activities, nor did it cut back on its research endeavors.

Today, not including individual project grant money or the Goldman fellowships, the School has an operating budget of approximately \$200,000, **40% of which it raises itself.** The School expects to increase the amount that it raises itself in the coming years. In order to do so, the School recently made a key change in personnel to reflect the new focus on funded research and enable the School to obtain funding for research grants. Ms. Adva Simantov, an outstanding, innovative administrator with fund raising experience, was hired to handle project management, including fundraising for grants, as well as working with the International Board.

- Joint Work and Cooperation

The School now works closely with the Offices of the Rector and Vice-Rector. Together with the Vice Rector, Professor Raanan Rein, the School developed an agenda for the first annual Conference in Memory of former Knesset Member and Minister Gad Ya'acobi. Together with important input from the Dean of Social Sciences, Professor Noah Lewin-Epstein, the School selected its junior Goldman Fellows for the 2008-2009 academic year (see below.) The School has begun to work with the Porter School of the Environment to jointly develop (and raise funding for) research projects on the Environment (see below.)

### **3. Research Projects**

- Pears Project Director/ Post-doctoral Fellowship in International Development

We reached an agreement with the Pears Foundation to offer a Project/post-doctoral fellowship from May 1, 2008 – September 30, 2010 to a young scholar who has an interest in areas related to development, i.e. the developing world (regional studies), sociology/anthropology and Jewish diplomacy. The \$125,000 grant will bring in \$10,000 in overhead revenue to Tel Aviv University.

The output of the project will be two-fold and will include research and policy papers related to the School's *Tikkun Olam* research agenda as well as the Fellow's own research agenda. The project is being led by Aliza Belman Inbal, a Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), in International Development in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University. Ms. Inbal, who was chosen over several other highly qualified applicants, is very professional and motivated, and is already making a big impact.

Her position is being fully funded by the Pears Foundation. Together with Ms. Inbal and the Pears Foundation, we have developed a research program that will advance our knowledge both on the question of Israel's policies in the field, and on the subject of the work that is being carried out by Jewish and Israeli NGOs.

- Budget Monitoring Project

The second project we have been developing is a Budget Monitoring project. The project is aimed at the development of a "tagging system" to budgetary items, according to various parameters (investment vs. transfer payments, geographical allocation of budget, etc.). The initial working group (made up of government representatives, third-sector organizations, research centers and academics) has been working order to develop the agenda. This project is carried out in collaboration with Shatil (the advisory branch of the New Israel Foundation). Dr. Sarit Bensimhon-Peleg, who is leading this project jointly with Shatil's Director of The National Budget Project, prepared a detailed research proposal and budget. We will now circulate it in order to try and raise the needed funds (around \$400,000). The Budget Monitoring program is a very ambitious and innovative

project (on international level), and is meant not only to promote budget transparency but also citizens' involvement in the budgetary process. We have already received a starter grant (\$20,000). This will enable us to make progress on the project and attract larger grants.

- Policy Research on the Environment

The School recently reached an oral agreement with the Porter School of the Environment to jointly develop (and raise funding for) research projects on the Environment. The fit is ideal because The Porter School brings excellence in the “hard” sciences, while the School brings expertise in the Social Science area. We are excited at the potential that these two organizations can achieve by working together.

- Additional Research and Publications:

Several research endeavors are currently at work:

1. Dr. Amos Zehavi is working on a comparative analysis on Education privatization: determinants and transparency.
2. Dr. Gila Menahem, Dr. Dorit Kerret and Dr. Avi Gottlieb are working on the relationship between social capital, transparency and the environmental behavior and performance of local authorities in Israel.
3. Dr. Sarit Bensimhon-Peleg is currently completing her research on the Relationship and impact of Jewish philanthropy on the think tanks scene in Israel. The research is to be published by Dec. 2008.
4. Forthcoming are the proceedings of the "Faith and International Development" workshop.
5. Recently published papers and position papers include: Dr. Raviv Schwartz's "Tend First to the Poor of you City? Philanthropic Behavior among Israeli Corporations Operating in the Developing World"; Dr. Reuven Gal's "Perception of Rights and Duties among Israeli Arabs – The Case of Civil Service"; Rommey Hassman "The Israel Brand- Nation Marketing Under Constant Conflict". All Publications are available on the School's website <http://spirit.tau.ac.il/government/>

#### **4. Additional Activities: 2007-2008**

- Workshop on "Faith and International Development", Neve Ilan, March, 2008

The workshop, initiated and organized by the School, focused on the relationship between faith and international development and on the growing phenomenon of faith-based organizations in the field of international development and humanitarian aid.

The workshop was held as a retreat, in a small countryside hotel between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Participants included the representatives of more than 50 Jewish and Israeli organizations as well as representatives of three Christian organizations, academics, government officials, private philanthropists and representatives of major Jewish foundations.

Keynote speakers included: Prof. Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University and Ad Melkert, UN Under-Secretary General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program.

Discussions were very stimulating and lively, and we believe that the exchange of ideas was fruitful for practitioners, government officials, scholars and philanthropists alike. The School has published a comprehensive conference proceeding.

- The India- Israel Forum: On September 2-3, 2008, the school, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), hosted the **India-Israel Forum: Broadening the Economic Relationship in a Global Age**, in New Delhi. The forum included delegates from the financial and technology industries in Israel and India, deliberating on issues pertaining to the two economies. The forum was co-chaired by Mr. Stanley Bergman and Mr. Tarun Das Chief Mentor, Confederation of Indian Industry and by Mr. Aharon Fogel, Chair of the Board, Ness Technology and Migdal Insurance & Mr. Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited. The events, meetings and discussions were intriguing and stimulating.