Jerusalem College of Technology

The Perot Ha-Ilan
Scolarship Fund

In memory of Major Ilan Meir Raiz z"l

Perot Ha-Ilan Scholarship Fund – Objectives

1. To grant tuition scholarships to outstanding students pursuing an Academic Officers Course at the Jerusalem College of Technology, in order to encourage excellence and outstanding quality amongst religious students who intend to become engaged in protecting and strengthening the State of Israel.
2. To contribute to building a leadership cadre which views the future of Israel as a state based on the foundations of Judaism and science.
3. To honor the memory of Major Ilan Meir Raiz z"l, who excelled at everything he put his mind to, who was imbued with the love of the Land and the State of Israel, who made sure that he set aside time for Torah study, who combined a life of Torah and worldly occupation (Derech Eretz), who aspired to technological excellence and who passed away in the prime of his life.

The Establishment of the Perot Ha-Ilan Scholarship Fund

The family of Major Ilan Meir Raiz z"l have established a scholarship fund in his name at the Jerusalem College of Technology with a view to perpetuate his memory and continue his path, the important ideals and the actions he embodied in his short life.

Today the Jerusalem College of Technology is considered to be a major contributor to the fact that Israel is a world leader in state-of-the-art technology, whilst providing a unique combination of professional academic and Jewish studies. The Jerusalem College of Technology excels in preparing students to integrate into the field of hi-tech as proficient, skilled professionals, with the relevant scientific background and training combined with a sincere commitment to Jewish values.

Management of the Fund

The board of the Perot Ha-Ilan Scholarship Fund is composed of representatives from the family of Ilan Raiz and the Jerusalem College of Technology that appoints a joint committee responsible for the criteria and procedures for granting scholarships to the students, in accordance with the spirit and objectives of the fund.

A Portrait of Major Ilan Raiz z"l

Ilan, the son of Ita z"l and Aryeh, was born in the town of Bat Yam just outside Tel Aviv. He studied at the Aderet Yeshiva high-school in Bat Yam and the Zeitlin High School in Tel Aviv. He was both a member and later a devoted youth leader in the Bnei Akiva youth movement, and from a very early age he served as a Ba'al Koreh (Torah reader) and a Shaliach Tzibbur (Cantor) in several synagogues.

Military Service as an Academic Officer

Ilan entered the IDF via the Military Academic Officer's track and as such completed a Bachelor's degree in Logistic at Bar-Ilan University. Afterwards, he served as a maintenance officer in the famous IDF Golani infantry brigade and as a deputy company commander. During his service in the Golani brigade his mother Ita passed away. Since during this time Ilan was meticulous to pray with a minyan (quorum) throughout the year and recite the Kaddish prayer three times a day for his mother, he volunteered each morning for an entire year to serve as the officer in charge of the convoy leaving the IDF base in Dotan (near the town of Jenin) to Afula, where he was able to pray Shacharit (morning services) with a minyan.

Ilan met his wife Leli (Leah) whilst she too was an academic officer in the IDF, during her studies towards a degree in mathematics and computer sciences at Bar-Ilan University. Ilan and Leli married and settled down in Elkana, where their four children, Itai Yehuda, Arel Naftali, Shira Rahel and Michael Aharon, were born.

During his military service, Ilan completed an additional degree in computers at Bar Ilan University and during the last year of his life he completed an MBA at the Netanya College. Upon completing his computer studies, he was transferred to the IDF Command, Control and Communications Branch. During his service there Ilan led several important command & control (C2) related projects, and in his last position Ilan led the "Beacon 400" project.

"Beacon 400" Project

As part of its Digital Land Forces program, the IDF built a new C2 system. The system, developed by Elbit Systems and additional companies, actually computerizes the battlefield. "Beacon 400" enables all combat forces in the battlefield to receive real-time updates on all elements relating to the battlefield via computer. Ilan was in charge of this project and received much praise for the system's performance capability.

Ilan managed to see the fruits of his labor, when only a few days prior to passing away, he took part in a large scale IDF exercise which was managed using "Beacon 400". It was during this exercise that the system was authorized to enter operational service.

On Saturday night, 8th November 2008 (Motzei Shabbat Parshat Lech Lecha 5769), Ilan Raiz z"l went to play basketball with his friends, as he did every Saturday night. In the middle of the game he collapsed and lost consciousness. All efforts to resuscitate him failed and the doctor had no choice but to pronounce his death.

Ilan was just 36 years old at the time of his death.

The activities of the Perot Ha-Ilan Scholarship Fund will serve to preserve the values and actions of Ilan Raiz z"l amongst scientists and professionals in the fields of technology and hi-tech in Israel.