

alumni spotlight

Davis Academy
Class of 2017
alumni Gaby
Lefkovits and
Rami Fabian

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ROOTED AT DAVIS, RISING ON CAMPUS

Two Alumni Turning Advocacy Into Action

This spring, *The Journey* shines a light on the powerful impact students can have on college campuses—and how the seeds of that impact are often planted much earlier. Two remarkable Davis Academy alumni, **Gaby Lefkovits** and **Rami Fabian**, both graduates of the Class of 2017, are making their voices heard in extraordinary ways. Their stories—individually compelling and collectively inspiring—are especially timely as college campuses across the country are increasingly at the forefront of conversations about Israel, antisemitism, and Jewish identity.

Though they took different paths after graduating from Davis, Gaby and Rami recently reconnected through a shared honor: being selected as two of just 40 undergraduate students from across the United States to participate in the prestigious Geller International Fellowship, a program sponsored by the Israel on Campus Coalition. Over the course of six months, fellows engaged in in-depth learning and critical conversations around the U.S.–Israel relationship and the Abraham Accords, culminating in a transformative 10-day trip to Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

For Rami, a senior at Emory University, the events of October 7th marked a turning point. “I saw the need to step up for the Jewish and Israeli community on campus,” he shares. He began working closely with Jewish and Zionist organizations and eventually earned a spot with the Geller Fellowship. “It’s been one of the most amazing programs and trips of my life.”

Gaby, a University of Georgia student, has been engaged in pro-Israel advocacy since her freshman year.

“Even before October 7th, supporting and defending Israel was the most meaningful thing I could do while in college,” she says. After being waitlisted her sophomore year, she reapplied and joined the third cohort of the Geller Fellowship. “It ended up being a blessing in disguise—I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything.”

Both Gaby and Rami trace the roots of their leadership and Jewish identity back to The Davis Academy.

“Davis helped foster my Jewish and Zionist identity in a major way,” Rami reflects. “I still remember doing my 8th grade TED Talk on how Israel has helped the world in so many different humanitarian ways.” For Gaby, the impact was equally profound. “Davis made me feel like I was part of a community and ingrained in me the values I will honor for the rest of my life.”





Watch Rami sharing a glimpse on his 10-day journey to Israel and UAE.



“I miss having such a warm Jewish, Zionist community... You don’t realize how special that is until it’s gone.”

– Rami Fabian

Even though they weren’t the closest of friends in Middle School, their shared Davis foundation has become a meaningful connection. “It’s been so fun to have Rami in-state at Emory and involved in all of the same organizations as me,” Gaby says. “Our friendship has grown so much over the years.” Rami agrees: “Having Gaby as a familiar face in the pro-Israel campus space has been such a pleasure. We’ve become close friends, and I’m incredibly thankful for that.”

As they’ve grown into leaders on their respective campuses, both Gaby and Rami have faced challenges—especially in confronting antisemitism.

Rami recounts a particularly frightening experience during a protest outside of Emory’s Chabad House. “There were horrible threats being yelled at us, and later, one of the protestors was found to be armed. It was a scary and sad time.” At UGA, Gaby helped lead efforts to suspend two student groups that were creating a hostile environment for Jewish and Israeli students. “It was a difficult situation, but it felt incredibly empowering to take action and make change.”

And their advocacy hasn’t stopped there. Rami has worked with AIPAC to lobby Congress and campaign

for pro-Israel legislation. Gaby was deeply involved in passing the IHRA definition of antisemitism in Georgia, a significant win that took three years to achieve and was signed into law in January 2024.

Both alumni are clear-eyed about the challenges Jewish students may face beyond Davis, and they have powerful advice for younger students: “Use the community you have now to learn about Judaism and Israel,” Rami urges. “That knowledge and confidence will help you stand up for who you are.” Gaby adds, “No one will care about your issues more than you. Don’t be afraid to advocate, unfriend, or block those who don’t respect you. The right people will stand by your side.”

And what do they miss most about Davis, now that they’re navigating adulthood?

“I miss having such a warm Jewish, Zionist community to be with every day,” says Rami. “You don’t realize how special that is until it’s gone.” Gaby echoes the sentiment: “I miss the small classes, the accommodating teachers, and the tight-knit community. Davis will always be a part of who I am.”

When asked what they would say to their younger selves back at Davis, both offer words of wisdom

shaped by experience. “Don’t take it for granted,” Rami says. “Enjoy every moment—you only get to be a kid once.” Gaby adds, “Trust the process. Every decision you make—even in Middle School—can lead you to a life you’re proud of.”

As the Davis community continues to nurture the next generation of changemakers, Gaby and Rami’s stories remind us of the lasting impact of a strong foundation, a passionate voice, and a deep commitment to our values.



“No one will care about your issues more than you... Stay educated. Stay proud.”

– Gaby Lefkovits

What Is the Geller Fellowship?

The Geller International Fellowship is a prestigious program for undergraduate leaders selected from universities across the United States. Sponsored by the Israel on Campus Coalition, the fellowship includes:

- 6 months of immersive learning and leadership development
- Critical dialogue around U.S.–Israel relations and the Abraham Accords
- A 10-day journey to Israel and the UAE exploring culture, security, economics, climate, and civil rights.
- A growing network of student changemakers committed to shaping informed, inclusive campus conversations about Israel and Jewish identity
- Upon completion of the Geller Fellowship, students join the network of ICC Senior Fellows.

Only 40 students nationwide are selected each year, making this honor a testament to Gaby and Rami’s passion and leadership.

