



Roenen Ben-Ami (SSDS '99)

Occupation: Co-Founder and Chief Risk Officer, Justt
University: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
High School: Niles North High School

If you ask Roenen Ben-Ami what led him to move to Israel and join the IDF after college, he will tell you his Schechter Jewish education and Zionist upbringing instilled him with a sense of responsibility to protect the land of Israel. Originally, Roenen planned to serve in the IDF for two years and then pursue a PhD in psychology in America. However, after being accepted into a top combat intelligence unit and then into training to become an officer, Roenen spent the next nine years as a captain in the Intelligence branch.

Roenen's spoke to Schechter students on multiple occasions about serving in the IDF, and credited Schechter for giving him the foundation of Hebrew knowledge that he needed to move to Israel, enlist in the IDF, and serve in prestigious IDF units."

After nine years in the IDF, Roenen decided to join the Fintech world in Tel Aviv. While spending four years at the Fintech Company Simplex, Roenen noticed a gap in the credit card market. Along with his co-founder, Roenen created a startup called Justt, which uses machine learning and deep domain knowledge to flag incorrect chargebacks and build tailored solutions to gather and submit evidence on a merchant's behalf. The result is a platform that provides a hands-free fully customized solution, eliminating the need for costly in-house teams. "Through Justt, we set out to build something that did not exist yet. This comes with many challenges, and allows us to constantly learn and improve," he said.

Despite living in Israel, Schechter continues to play an important part of Roenen's professional and personal life. "I love that even though I live in Israel, I can still feel the warmth of the close knit Schechter community. Some of my closest friends are from my years at Schechter, and the community has also been a great professional network. If I did not live in Israel, I would be sending my children to Schechter so that they could have the same opportunities I had through my Schechter education."

When Roenen is not working, he loves to go camping and hiking with his wife and their young children. Running, biking, and open sea swimming are some of Roenens other favorite activities.

Roenen sends a shout out to his cousins who are current Schechter students, Ari (SSDS '28) and Maya (SSDS 25). Roenen's brother Nataniel (SSDS '96), and cousins Sivan Kredow Schondorf (SSDS '95) and Adam Kredow (SSDS '01), all attended Schechter together and are #SchechterProud

