

TAU

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The People of
the Book

Humanities Today



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
Pursuing the Unknown



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Tel Aviv University Review | 2017

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Dear Friends,

After about 200 years of the modern university as we know it, it's time to reboot. There's no doubt that universities must continue to conduct research, disseminate knowledge and teach students. But we also have to be relevant.

We see a growing inter-relationship between academia, business and society, and not just on the local level but also the global one.

If the traditional stance of the university used to be, "We know the answers, come learn from us," then TAU's position today is "We don't know all the answers, come search with us."

We're joining forces with other research institutions, companies, government agencies and our worldwide network of friends to create new and exciting frameworks for discovery. Programs span a range of interdisciplinary subjects. These include Humanities in Engineering, Dead Sea studies, cancer research and the Internet-of-Things, to name a few. The University is also putting an emphasis on inclusivity with a number of scholarship programs aimed at periphery students, minority groups and women.

Blowing wind into our sails is TAU's 10-year, \$1 billion Capital Campaign. Old and new supporters are recognizing the opportunity to influence, through their involvement with TAU, scientific and social progress in Israel and internationally. We're grateful for their commitment and look forward to an inspiring shared journey.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Joseph Klafter
President, Tel Aviv University

Mining Big Data for Improved Learning

How can pupils learn to learn better? This is an age-old question being asked by experts at TAU's Jaime and Joan Constantiner School of Education. To help develop new and improved methods, Dr. Arnon Hershkovitz is using *learning analytics* – previously known as educational data mining – which involves the analysis of data that is generated when students study in an online learning environment. In one of his projects, by investigating how pu-



Nipping Skin Cancer in the Bud

How does skin cancer spread? According to researchers who've been studying the disease for decades, knowing this particular bit of information could be the difference between life and death for thousands of sufferers. Now, a team of TAU researchers led by Dr. Carmit Levy of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with colleagues in Israel, Europe and the US, has laid the groundwork for more effective blocking of melanoma – the most aggressive and lethal form of skin cancer. The team has discovered how the cancer spreads to distant organs and has found ways to stop the process

before the metastatic stage.

“The threat of melanoma is not in the initial tumor that appears on the skin, but rather in its metastasis – when tumor cells are sent off to colonize vital organs like the brain, lungs, liver and bones,” says Levy.

Even in the earliest stages of cancer, the tumor sends out tiny sacs called vesicles containing molecules of microRNA. The key lies in blocking those vesicles.

Levy and her team examined samples of early melanoma before the vesicle launching began. To their surprise, they found changes in the form and structure of the dermis – the inner layer of

the skin – that had never before been reported.

The researchers looked for substances that could block the metastatic process and they found two: one that inhibits the delivery of the vesicles from the tumor to the dermis and the other that prevents changes to the dermis even after the vesicles arrive. It's those two substances, Levy says, that could become successful drug treatments. “Our study is an important step on the road to a full remedy for the deadliest skin cancer,” said Levy. “We hope that our findings will help turn melanoma into a nonthreatening, easily curable disease.”



pils and teachers learn a new computer programming language, he hopes to provide teachers with the tools to help their pupils learn more efficiently.

Hershkovitz's goals are twofold: To deepen understanding of learning processes in a more validated, reliable and accurate manner, and to plough his findings back into the education system with a view to helping teachers better respond to the educational and emotional needs of their pupils and enhance teaching processes.

For example, he examines factors such as the time required to complete different tasks; the use of educational materials such as video; interactivity; and the integration of external and enrichment sites.

“By observing learning solely in classrooms, as we once did, we could get information only in a limited way, and certainly not on a large scale,” says Hershkovitz. “Our research approach enables us to follow learners' behavior on an unprecedented scale.”

The Internet of Things (IoT) is changing the world as we know it. Mobile phones, cars, appliance sensors and other devices are generating massive amounts of real-time data that is constantly streamed to and from the Internet. Yet, IoT presents a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it contributes to economic growth and improved quality of life; on the other, it poses major security concerns, since this universal connectivity renders everything more vulnerable.

Against this backdrop, Dr. Roey Tzezana of the TAU Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center is trying to predict how criminals and terrorists will take advantage of the IoT and, conversely, how the security and intelligence communities can prepare to combat such acts through policy.

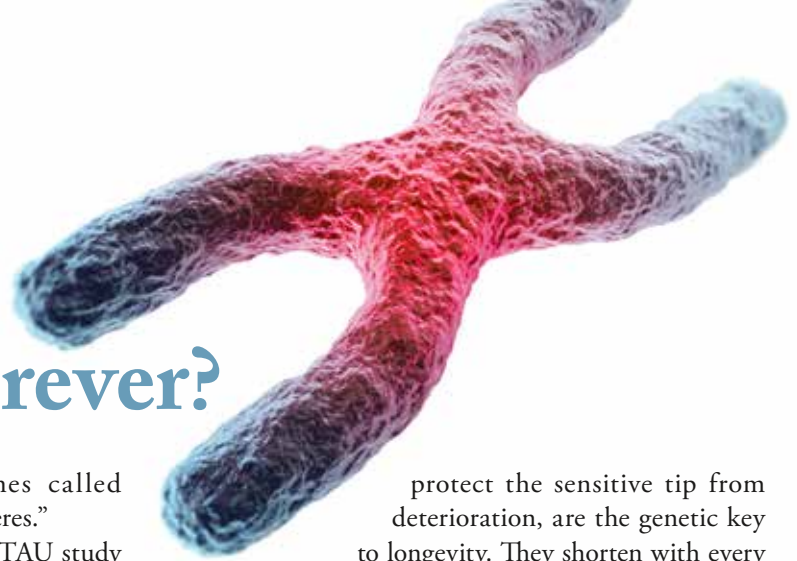
His research project utilizes crowd-

sourcing and artificial intelligence to create and rank thousands of scenarios involving criminal and terrorist acts that use the IoT. He found that the most dangerous, high-impact scenarios were those in which terrorists targeted infrastructure such as power plants and

grids. Other worrying scenarios included hacking into people's “wearables” (such as Fitbit bracelets) and disrupting the daily routine of smart cities. These and other scenarios are now being considered by international security agencies as a basis for future policymaking.



Using IoT to Prevent Crime



Famine Is Forever?

Apparently, a person's genetics can be affected by starvation conditions even generations after a famine ends. New research led by Prof. Eugene Kobyliansky of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine, and conducted by doctoral student Dmitry Torchinsky of TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences, suggests that the effects of famine are not limited to those who went hungry themselves. Rather, they can also be transmitted to the sufferers' children genetically, as evidenced in a telltale piece of the offspring's chro-

mosomes called "telomeres."

The TAU study focused on survivors of a mass famine that took place in the 1920s in several rural regions of Russia. Kobyliansky and his team discovered that men born after the mass famine ended in 1923 had shorter telomeres than those born before it. Furthermore, ensuing generations of male offspring inherited the shorter telomeres as well.

Telomeres, compound structures at the end of each chromosome that

protect the sensitive tip from deterioration, are the genetic key to longevity. They shorten with every chromosome replication cycle and are associated with growth and aging. Prof. Kobyliansky's research reinforces other findings showing that even moderate caloric restriction can shorten the human lifespan.

The study, conducted with Ben-Gurion and Bar-Ilan Universities, was published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Early human teeth appear to have been healthier than ours today, says Dr. Rachel Sarig, a specialist in orthodontics at TAU's Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine and a dental anthropologist at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. The modern mouth is a mess, she says. Seventy percent of the population suffers from teeth overcrowding or misalignment, wisdom teeth that need extracting and jaws that don't fit together.

According to Sarig, the problem of overcrowding developed recently. "When we look at skulls that date back more than 100,000 years, we see that the teeth are very well aligned," she says. Analyzing mandibles and teeth at the Dan David Center for Human Evolution and Biohistory Research and the Shmunis Family Anthropology

Institute, Sarig and her colleagues are determining the origins of teeth and jaw problems.

The team believes that tooth overcrowding, like many modern ailments, is related to environmental factors and diet. In the Paleolithic era, for example, humans ate raw food mixed with seeds, berries and particles of sand and stones. This abrasive mix exercised jaw mus-

cles and caused teeth to work harder, Sarig says. By contrast, contemporary diets contain more processed foods which don't exercise the jaw and cause the muscles to atrophy. "We should take prehistoric man as an example of healthy dentition," says Sarig, who is working with her team on applying their findings to improving modern dental practices.

Old Teeth Shed New Light on Dental Health

Visual media dominate our lives so much nowadays that the lines between professional and entertainment imagery have begun blurring. TAU film and culture scholar Dr. Laliv Melamed is examining the ethical repercussions of this phenomenon as a post-doctoral fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Buchmann Faculty of Law.

Specifically, Dr. Melamed is studying the upsurge of military-themed imagery – such as photos and video footage from drones and security cameras – in news media, documentaries and other non-fiction TV and film productions. In the context of military operations and security systems, the use of such imagery has a clear functional objective. Yet, what happens when it “trickles” into the mainstream media and, by exten-

Drones in Our Day-to-Day Life



sion, civilian society? Is this transfer justified? What repercussions does it have on society and its ethos?

One of Melamed’s assumptions is that the media’s choice of imagery or language has an enormous effect on how we perceive reality. When it comes to security imagery, visuals may contribute to a more militaristic discourse in society and, in turn, a more security-minded orientation. Such shifts generally correspond with changes in the political discourse as well. “Our perspective becomes defense-related,” Melamed says. As a result, people are presented – and in turn perceived – as threats and targets, not as humans, resulting in desensitization and loss of empathy on a societal scale.



Why Don't You Like Me Anymore?

Facebook and other social media sites are becoming increasingly important for political exposure and debate. This is especially true in times of conflict, when highly politicized individuals and groups turn to social media sites to express their views – including by “unfriending” and “unfollowing” people who don’t agree with them.

In a study published in the *Journal of Communication*, Dr. Shira Dvir-Gvirsman of TAU’s newly dedicated Dan Department of Communication, and her collaborator, Dr. Nicholas A. John of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, examined the phenomenon



of “political unfriending” on Facebook. The researchers surveyed 1,103 Jewish Israeli Facebook users in the 10 days following the Israeli-Gaza conflict of 2014 and found that nearly a fifth (16%) had unfriended someone based on political comments, while a further 19% considered doing so before ultimately deciding not to.

“If it is commonly argued that greater civic engagement is good for democracy, the findings imply a worrying link between having strong political views, voicing those views and silencing opposing positions,” says Dvir-Gvirsman.



Why We Need

In an age of **instant sound bites** and **populism**, how can the study of the Humanities strengthen critical thinking, cultural identity and democratic values? Scholars at Tel Aviv University's Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities weigh in.

During the American Civil War, huge numbers of soldiers, civilians and slaves crossed vast areas of the Confederate South. Blacks experienced their liberty through motion, while whites from all walks of life experienced the defeat of the Confederacy through the flight of refugees and the return of men broken-down from the battlefield.

The issue of displacement and mobility raised by the American Civil War, alongside class, race and gender – make it a highly effective model for discussing today's critical global problems, believes TAU historian Dr. Yael Sternhell of the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies and the Department of English and American Studies.

According to Sternhell, the ability to use history as a lens for scrutinizing human experience is what makes the study of the Humanities so crucial. "Only the Humanities can offer the type of critical reasoning skills that are pivotal to understanding problems like the mass migration from the Middle East and Africa that is now one of the defining



Dean of Humanities
Prof. Leo Corry



"The Gilman Building is the beating heart of the campus"

the Humanities More Than Ever



By Louise Shalev

problems of our generation,” she says.

Sternhell is the author of *Routes of War: The World of Movement in the Confederate South* – a work that examines how migration and motion constitute a fundamental aspect of the American Civil War in particular, and of war in general. “Motion is what ties together the rich and poor, soldiers and citizens,” she says.

Sternhell admits that she cannot predict whether the Middle East and Africa will stabilize. “As a historian I have come to terms with the fact that I have no idea how to predict what will happen. I’m also acutely aware of the dynamism of history and the ways that it unfolds unpredictably.

“Our students must engage the world as critical thinkers. We need to equip them with the tools to think about the world as it has evolved so far, to understand modernity and how it came into being,” says Sternhell. “They need to be able to assess a political party, a political platform and questions of injustice and equality in society.

“We can’t live in societies made of individuals who invent algorithms, applications and hardware, but who don’t understand how democracy was born in the modern world, what mistakes were made, or how the pitfalls of the industrial revolution led to some of the horrors of the 20th century,” she continues.

In another example Sternhell offers about the need for Humanities education, she says, “Science is magic in many ways, but it can also be a dangerous tool. What made WWII special in history was the use of science and industry for killing. How do we prevent 21st century science from becoming the same vehi-

Entin Faculty of Humanities in Numbers

5 Schools	5,014 students in total
19 Departments	
26 BA degree programs	22 Centers & Institutes
40 MA degree programs	
3,297 BA students 1,717 MA students 616 PhD students	



cle in the service of extremists, racists and people who refuse to accept the existence of different looking people or people of different faiths? You can't do that without teaching history, philosophy and seminal works of literature that engage with the deep moral questions of human existence," she says.

Dr. Yael Sternhell



tural values necessitates the study of the Humanities more than ever before. "We see a world at the peak of a crisis in values that requires humanistic thinking," he says. "Society won't be able to deal with tough issues without the kind of expertise and depth that the study of the Humanities affords.

"In a world like ours, the most basic assumptions about society, humankind and culture need to be constantly rethought," says Corry, a scholar of the history of science who recently published *A Brief History of Numbers* and holds the Bertram and Barbara Cohn Chair in the History and Philosophy of Science. "Technology has brought about deep changes in the way we live, communicate, and produce and disperse knowledge. A strong background in the Humanities offers a truly unique

toolbox to come to terms with all that is happening around us," he says.

"The Humanities help us ask and address the major questions that human beings in society must grapple with in a politically, technologically and economically unstable world," says Corry. "We are here to identify patterns that are being repeated across continents – toward materialism, nationalism, fundamentalism, and a rejection of open, democratic values.

"In the Humanities we ask questions such as: How should we educate our children? How should we promote open and critical debate of issues that concern us personally and as a community?" says Corry. "Social media, reality shows and infotainment tend to weaken honest engagement. These are issues that require time, open debate,



"We can't live in societies made of individuals who invent algorithms, applications and hardware, but who don't understand how democracy was born."

Crisis of society, not of the Humanities

While enrollment at the Entin Faculty of Humanities is down about 14% since 2007 as students choose disciplines that lead to "lucrative" careers, "we are not in a crisis," says Dean of Humanities Prof. Leo Corry. "There's a lot of talk about the crisis in the Humanities, but this is a concept I reject," he says. "Yes, there are problems, there are challenges, but you just need to come to the Isaac and Rosa Gilman Building – home of the Humanities – to see all the dynamic activity going on here, and realize that this is still the beating heart of the campus."

Prof. Corry believes that the current erosion of democratic and cul-

DESERTIFICATION AND THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

Researchers at the Department of Middle Eastern and African History are linking between human experiences on the one hand, and the material world, landscape and environmental factors on the other. They ask questions such as: How is Saudi history connected to water-transporting camels? How has the Syrian Civil War affected the Israeli climate?

Dr. Firas Arraf is researching the connection between water scarcity and the war in Syria. "56% of Syria is semi-arid and 87% of the entire water supply goes to agriculture," says Arraf, a Christian Arab and TAU graduate. Arraf explains that a severe drought in the northeast of the country from 2005 to 2011 caused the aquifers to dry up and the land to turn into desert.

As a consequence, some one million farmers and agricultural workers fled to the big cities to find work. However, when they didn't find jobs, they joined the demonstrations that sparked the current conflict. "During the six years of the war, various sides of the conflict have used water as a weapon," says Arraf. "At one time, the Jihadi group Jabhat al-Nusra destroyed the pumping sites that provided water to Damascus and the surrounding countryside, and today ISIS controls the main aquifers in the north."

Thankfully, a 1987 agreement with Turkey provides 6 billion cubic meters of water a year, but, warns Arraf, "If that is cut off, then there will be an even greater human catastrophe than we are witnessing now."





a critical approach, seriousness, and a richness of language and concepts – which is exactly the opposite of what the general discourse is now. We believe there is a better way to face reality and to help to create a culturally richer, more meaningful environment for all of us.”

Defining cultural identity

The Humanities are not only about preserving cultural heritage, but also about defining personal and collective identity, believes Prof. Aviad Kleinberg, Head of the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies and author of the recently published *The Sensual God, How the Senses Make the Almighty Senseless*. “Through literature, philosophy and history, we address pertinent questions such as: Who am I? Am I primarily part of a nation, a religion, a particular community, or simply the human race?” asks Kleinberg.

“The trend today in the Humanities is toward *culturalization* – looking at questions of identity, both of the individual and society, as an analysis of culture,” he says. “The Humanities are asking big questions, which sometimes

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“Today, the Humanities are bringing brain science into the context of culture.”

have no immediate practical application. Yet, if you want to understand why people think like they do, behave like they do, and how they express themselves through literature and poetry, then this is what the Humanities are doing.”

Today Humanities scholars are also interested in the history of emotions. “What is it that makes people react in a certain way? Why do we mourn? Is it alright for a man to cry?” Traditionally, says Kleinberg, emotions were under

BRINGING THE HUMANITIES TO ENGINEERS

What makes a well-rounded engineer? The answer, according to Dean of Engineering Prof. Yossi Rosenwaks, is an engineer with a strong grounding in the Humanities. This idea is at the core of TAU’s trailblazing new **Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Program for the Humanities in Engineering**. The first of its kind in Israel, the four-year program is promoting “out of the box thinking” among engineers that could lead to the seminal inventions of the future.

A joint venture of the Faculties of Engineering and Humanities, the program admitted 20 high-performing students in its first year, based on matriculation and university entrance exam results, and a personal interview that gauged candidates’ potential for future leadership of Israel’s innovation sector. The program’s prospects as a catalyst for leadership has garnered generous support from various organizations in addition to the Mandel Foundation.

“If you look at all the huge companies out there, it’s not only the technology; it’s the idea behind them. Look at Facebook – it’s the idea;

“I have a mathematical mind, but I have always been attracted to philosophy and history. In class, we’re studying Aristotle’s Physics and that’s helping me understand how physics developed. This program has opened up my eyes to new ways of thinking about life that I hope will lead to something innovative in the future, perhaps combining industrial engineering with social action.”

Meirav David, 1st year student in the Mandel Program



look at Uber or Airbnb, they required knowledge of human behavior and human experience,” says Prof. Rosenwaks. “The technology enables the idea. Nowadays, the technology is so advanced, that the breakthrough comes from a different type of creative thinking and that’s why we need to give students the tools not only for quantitative thinking but also for humanistic thinking,” he says.

Humanities Dean Leo Corry, whose academic background includes an MA in pure mathematics and who worked in the high-tech industry and co-authored 20 US patents, says, “There is a growing awareness that the Humanities are important to the endeavors of scientists and engineers who excel in a mathematical way of thinking, but who must also exhibit creativity, imagination and innovation. Courses in philosophy, ethics, history and literature enable young science students to expand their cognitive boundaries and develop new perspectives,” Corry continues. He notes that the Faculty offers various degrees that combine the Humanities with law, math, physics and the life sciences, as well as with sociology and psychology. It also offers a new degree program in consciousness.



the domain of psychology, but today psychology is moving in the direction of brain science. “Freud felt that emotions could teach us about how societies behave. He believed, for example, that totalitarianism was one aspect of a society that had not solved its oedipal complex,” says Kleinberg. “In another example, how we experience trauma is not just a matter of how neurons work, but a cultural question.

“The separation between the Social Sciences and the Humanities is artificial,” asserts Kleinberg. “Today, the Humanities are deeply influenced by cultural anthropology, while social



Prof. Adam Afterman



“We don’t expect our students to engage in religious ritual. We’re not a yeshiva.”

scientists are realizing that they can’t answer questions without history,” he says. “The Humanities are not an Old Boys Network or a Gentleman’s Club. We are working for culture and society. We are part of the process of rethinking ourselves with systematic and rational tools,” he says.

Jewish philosophy in context

The openness and broad cultural perspective that is the hallmark of the Faculty of Humanities also characterizes the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud, Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology.

The Department covers Jewish literature and thought from the end of the biblical era through to the modern era, focusing on rabbinic literature, ancient magic and mysticism, Hellenistic Judaism, Medieval Jewish philosophy and Kabbalah, Hassidism and modern Jewish philosophy and thought. Students study the Talmud, Kabbalah, Maimonides, Zohar and the modern Jewish philosopher Hermann Cohen, among others.

“This is such a sophisticated, enormous tradition. It’s like a galaxy, a universe,” says Department Chair, Prof. Adam Afterman. “It’s almost 3,000 years of interconnected textual reflection that is a big puzzle. The study of Jewish philosophy at TAU is known for the broad inter-contextualized way it examines the Jewish tradition and for its balanced study of text and theory,” he continues, noting: “At TAU, we study Judaism not only as a closed and sealed tradition, but rather as part of the history of general philosophy and thought, particularly in the context of Christianity and Islam.”

For Afterman, the close reading of primary Jewish sources is key to understanding fundamental questions relating to Jewish existence: its meaning, values and future. He views the study of Jewish philosophy as highly relevant for the evolution of secular Jewish life in Israel. Modern Zionism and other forms of contemporary Jewish ideas are also examined through the lens of earlier trends of Jewish thought, he notes.

Seventy percent of the students are secular, although diverse, notes Afterman. “That’s what makes it so exciting to teach here. It’s the kind of secular, neutral learning that allows

students to approach Jewish texts from a multilayered and critical perspective.

“We are opening up access to the basic Jewish bookshelf,” says Afterman. “People are frightened to open these books. They may have them at home, but they’ve never opened them. We tell the students: ‘you own these books; these books are no less yours than the Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox. This is your Shakespeare, your Milton.’ We don’t expect our students to practice religious ritual. We don’t care what they believe, or where they come from. We’re not a yeshiva.”

A scholar of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah, Afterman regularly takes his students on a field trip to Safed in the Galilee – center of Kabbalah learning since the 16th century. “It’s a learning laboratory. They can see the sites, the synagogues and the landscape in which at least some of the texts they are studying were written,” says Afterman who teaches in the Ofakim (“Horizons”) Program funded by the Posen Foundation.



Oren Bader



Israeli and Jewish identity – then and now

What did it mean to be an Israeli in the founding years of the state and what does it mean today? Prof. Orit Rozin of the Department of Jewish History researches the formation of Israeli identity and citizenship. Her book, *A Home for All the Jews: Citizenship, Rights and National Identity in the New Israeli State*, argues that citizenship in early statehood was constructed through struggles for civil rights.

“Statehood meant something different then than what it means today for most Israelis,” says Rozin. “Citizenship was cherished. Just getting an Israeli passport was a wonder. No one thinks about that now, they take it for granted.

“In early statehood, Israeli identity was ‘constructed’ consciously; now it just develops,” says Rozin. “In those days there was a major effort to construct one identity, one language; the authorities wanted people to feel con-

nected to one another, to feel solidarity and to trust the systems that create mutual responsibility,” says Rozin.

Nowadays, the younger generation is more involved in its own identity than the collective identity, notes Rozin. “We’re so torn between Left and Right, secular and religious, so there’s a lot that binds us together but a lot that tears us apart.”

On the question of Jewish identity, Rozin believes that in early statehood, the state aimed for all Jews in the world to feel that Israel was their

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“What a book has to say cannot fit into a sound bite.”

home. Until 1970, the *term* Jew wasn’t defined in Israel’s Law of Return, she notes. “When someone turned up and said they were Jewish, they might have been immediately accepted as a *bona fide* Jew – depending on the identity

of the Minister of Interior and his/her officials at any given time,” says Rozin. “National identity was more important than halachic identity. Now that has changed; there are stringent checks on who is Jewish according to Orthodox religious rulings and what represents “proper” Jewish conduct. That stirs up tensions within Israeli society and opens up a growing gap between Israel and liberal Jewish communities abroad,” she concludes.

Literature breeds empathy

Reading literature can help us empathize with other people and imagine what life looks like from their point of view, says Prof. Uri S. Cohen of the Department of General Literature. “The ability to identify with other points of view gleaned through reading literature is an important skill for communication.” says Cohen. He warns, however, that “this ability is an endangered ability, always precarious, because we increasingly prefer our own point of view.

BRIDGING SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

If the hallmark of the Humanities is the free pursuit of knowledge, TAU’s Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas is an academic framework where scholars follow their curiosity and ask questions that challenge conventional thinking on issues affecting humankind.


Oren Bader, a PhD candidate at the Cohn Institute, is integrating evolutionary and developmental biology, cognitive science, psychological analysis and philosophy to structure a theory of social attention. He is asking whether social attention is different from other types of attention. What happens when we turn attention to other people, or when we turn our attention to other objects in the world?

“We are social creatures,” says Bader, “When we walk down the street we pay more attention to other people than we do to the natural environment. Social attention is crucial for our wellbeing in everyday life,” he says.

“Without the capacity for social attention, our world becomes narrower,” claims Bader. People with impaired capacities for social attention, for example, those on the autism spectrum or suffering from social disorders and phobias, have reduced abilities to understand people as social agents. They can experience others as intimidating and threatening,” he continues.

Bader believes that if impaired social attentional capacities could be regulated, “we will be able to teach people with social disorders to prefer human beings over natural objects and gain a better understanding of the basis for enabling people to cooperate and act as a group.”



 Using drones to find hidden structures on Masada



MASADA REDUX

When Dr. Guy Stiebel, Head of the Masada Expedition, joined the TAU faculty two years ago, the official excavations at Masada moved with him. This February, Dr. Stiebel led the Neustatder Expedition at the World Heritage Site, held for the first time under the auspices of TAU's Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology and bringing to an end a 10-year hiatus in excavations. The digs were carried out by TAU students, including from TAU's International MA in Archaeology.

Why Masada, why now?

Now is the time to bring the latest technologies of micro-archaeology to the site, says Stiebel. "New techniques such as DNA analysis, analysis of the composition of metals and improved carbon 14 dating are making it possible to construct a new picture of life on Masada.

"Archaeo-botanists can now analyze the soil from Masada under a microscope

and reconstruct a lavish royal garden that was planted in the middle of the desert," he continues. "Using drones to uncover hidden structures, we can see the way the land was settled and used."

In addition, photometric documentation and 3D modeling of the Roman siege system and the trails that ascend to the site have yielded remarkable new understandings of the trails' chronology, construction and function, as well as new data on the architectural components of the best preserved Roman siege system in the world, notes Stiebel.

The expedition has further examined a newly discovered cave at Masada with possible linkage to a group of Essenes who took refuge there after the destruction of Qumran in 68AD. "This isolated, arid mountain was the best place to hide because of the supply of 40,000 cubic meters of water from Herod's time," says

Stiebel. "These refugees brought with them personal memories: jewelry, precious perfumes, tiny relics of bones, potsherds and coins, and this is what our students are unearthing.

"Masada is known for death, for the ultimate ending – the mass suicide of the Jews in face of the Roman siege – but it is becoming clear that Masada's major importance and scholarly potential lies in its very rich fabric of life," says Stiebel. "It is a microcosm of ancient Judaea and a path to understanding the Roman Empire.

"Archaeology teaches you to see that most everything has happened before. People already experienced victories and defeats, catastrophes and earthquakes, resistance and occupation, and peaks of technology. The greatest challenge for us is to gain an intimate acquaintance with the past that at times may further serve as a mirror to our society."



“This in turn leads to the oversimplification of everything,” says Cohen. “The Humanities are constantly under threat by those who would *not* have the world be too complex.”

According to Cohen, research shows that people who read books are happier and better adapted. “It’s like wine tasting. You’re not born with the natural capacity for wine tasting, you develop it. Similarly, literature develops the wine tasting of the soul,” he says.

While the creative impulse cannot be taught, says Cohen, “the gateway to creativity is through interpretation – the close reading of texts. You can teach students that if you interpret a problem properly, which is a humanistic skill, then you have a better chance of attaining creativity,” he says.

Since joining TAU in 2011 from Columbia University, Cohen has been astounded by the talent he comes across in his literature classes. “The talent is as good as Ivy League schools. The students come here older and with more life experience – and that is a good thing in literature. These are students who believe the key to our future lies within our culture,” says Cohen.

When reading the classics – Homer for example – “you learn many things,” says Cohen. “You learn what it means to be a human being. You learn about the rise of human consciousness and political organization.” Close reading is a major life skill, stresses Cohen; “it’s about not only understanding the text, but actually how it refers to the larger frame of the world. You can see how big ideas are expressed through the fabric of a text.

“Of course,” adds Cohen, “not everyone draws the same ideas from a text. The only thing that I really care about with my students is that *they* care about the world; that they understand and feel compelled to do something about it.”



NATURE IMAGERY OF THE BIBLE

As the spring migration of storks recently passed over Israel on its way to Europe, it seems timely to research the origins of the term “stork” in the bible. Looking up the entry in TAU’s exciting new DNI (Dictionary of Nature Imagery) Bible Project, we learn that while the Prophet Jeremiah admonished the Israelites for not being obedient to the Lord, he exclaimed:

They [Jerusalem] all persist in their wayward course like a steed dashing forward in the fray. Even the stork in the sky knows her seasons, and the turtledove, swift, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people pay no heed to the law of the LORD.
Jeremiah 8:4–7

The DNI Bible Project is an expanding online dictionary that will be available online from late 2017. The multidisciplinary tool is being developed by Prof. Dalit Rom-Shiloni of the Department of Bible Studies, together with graduate and postgraduate students in the fields of archaeology, zoology, ornithology, geography, climatology and botany.

The dictionary interprets nature imagery according to five fields: fauna, flora, landscape characteristics, climate systems and water sources; it focuses on the Land of Israel, the Levant, the Eastern Mediterranean region and the ancient Near East.

Yes, but is it practical?

Students of the Humanities (as well as their parents) often worry that their degrees are not as “practical” as those in the scientific fields. If you study medicine, you can be a doctor; if you study architecture, you can be an architect. But what is suitable work for those who study medieval history or linguistics?

It turns out that the Humanities can be a great springboard for a career. TAU alumni have already demonstrated the value of studying both science and the Humanities. For example, Ehud Shabtai, co-founder of Waze, holds a BSc in computer science and philosophy; Avi Warshavsky, founder of MindCET, completed an MA in philosophy; and Tal Shoham, founder of

Evolero, holds a LLB and BA in East Asian Studies, to name a few.

Advertising, marketing, digital media and high-tech firms are seeking to hire Humanities graduates for their creativity, language skills and familiarity with different cultures, languages and history. Even the Mossad, the national intelligence service, recently ran a recruitment campaign targeted at history and philosophy graduates.

“In a world where unpredictability is the only sure thing,” says Ehud Or, TAU Vice Director-General for Strategic Planning and Marketing, “Humanities graduates are equipped with the intellectual toolbox for dealing with change.”

Seeing Green

TAU scientists are looking to algae to meet humanity's needs

Problem: Depletion of fossil fuels and arable land for farming

Solution: Cultivate algae to produce hydrogen for power and biomass for proteins and fuel



By Lisa Kremer

Gazing across the sands of the Arava desert, Prof. Iftach Yacoby of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences sees green: Neon green algae, stretching across the collective land of five kibbutzim, producing enough hydrogen to power anything and everything that fossil fuel can power.

Prof. Alex Golberg of TAU's Porter School of Environmental Studies also sees green on the horizon: A leafy green swath in the deep blue ocean. His vision: An offshore farm of algae, cultivated for biomass from which food, pharmaceuticals and biofuels can be produced.

Prof. Iftach Yacoby



Can we farm the future needs of humanity in a sustainable way? Professors Yacoby and Golberg believe we can.

Beloved hydrogen

The seeds for Yacoby's quest were sown in the agricultural settlement where he grew up: "I have a memory of my father in the mango orchard saying, 'Oil. All of the world's problems are because of oil.' That sentence—*the way he said it*—has stayed with me my entire life."

As a child Yacoby was fascinated with chemical reactions. He extracted zinc from household batteries, mixing

it with cleaning solution to create hydrogen—once blowing up his parents' balcony in the process. After that fateful experiment during the first Gulf War, his father marched 12-year-old Iftach to TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Chemistry. He was accepted but deferred until after his military service, eventually completing BSc, MSc and

PhD degrees at TAU, where he still works today with his "beloved hydrogen."

"Hydrogen can be the clean, renewable energy that the world needs. But we must produce it in a clean, renewable way," explains Yacoby.

Algae → Photosynthesis → Hydrogen

From Antarctica to the Arava, microscopic algae, or microalgae, grow at an astounding pace; place a tiny amount in 200 liters of water and within a few days the water will be green. Algae require little care, surviving on humidity produced during the hour-long span of sunset. Most important, algae give off hydrogen during photosynthesis.

These characteristics make it a go-to organism for Yacoby and his team at the H₂ Laboratory for Renewable Energy Studies. "We want a hardy organism that grows fast—the more cells we have the more hydrogen we get," he explains.

"We tweak the DNA sequence of microalgae genes to boost hydrogen production, which we measure using techniques and devices developed in our lab. Scientists around the world send us specimens for testing—we are the only lab in Israel doing this, of about 10 globally."





THE INDIAN MODEL FOR BIOREFINERIES

Prof. Alex Golberg envisions low-cost, easy-to-use & easy-to-assemble technologies for operating offshore biorefineries in developing countries. India, with its 7,500-km coastline populated by countless villages, is an ideal model: Indian villagers utilize only *7 liters of gasoline each year* (compared with 1,200 liters yearly per capita in the US). According to calculations by Golberg's team, biorefineries can provide 100% of Indian villagers' needs for fuel, as well as for animal feed and fertilizer—today Indian farmers purchase expensive seaweed fertilizer from China. Golberg is discussing research collaborations with colleagues at the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Institute in Gujarat.



Prof. Alex Golberg

PhD candidate Rinat Semyatich, who is mentored by Yacoby, continues: “Beside our own strains, we also obtain microalgae from huge international databases and algae banks.”

Semyatich's breakthrough doctoral research represents a game changer for the H₂ Laboratory and international community of hydrogen seekers: Contrary to long-held scientific theory, her findings show that algae's hydrogen-producing enzyme—once believed to be inactive in the presence of oxygen—actually produces hydrogen at the same time that oxygen is produced. The enzyme is now deemed to be much more important than previously considered. Semyatich's finding gives scientists a more precise target for modifying the algae genome.

Big data analysis

To this end, Yacoby collaborates with TAU computer scientist Prof. Tamir Tuller, Head of the Laboratory of Computational Systems and Synthetic Biology, and doctoral student Iddo Weiner, alumnus of TAU's Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students. They analyze big data to determine how to tweak microalgae DNA sequences to enhance the hydrogen-producing enzyme. “If we can increase hydrogen production

by algae five-fold, clean renewable hydrogen production can be economically feasible,” explains Yacoby.

The question of whether hydrogen is economical today has not stopped automakers from putting hydrogen-powered cars on the US market for slightly over \$50,000. “Global warming exists. Fossil fuels will run out. While today hydrogen is produced using fossil fuel, hydrogen itself is the fuel of the future. Major car manufacturers are big enough to invest now so they can lead when the hydrogen supply problem is solved,” sums up Weiner.

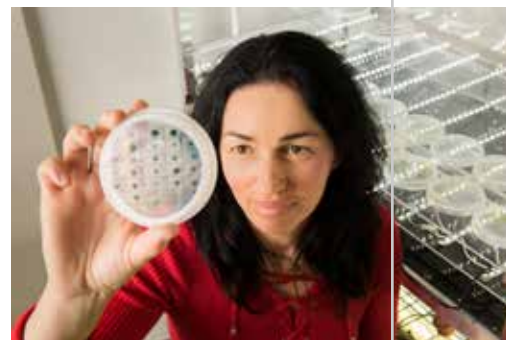
Agricultural revolution

The drive to solve an existential problem also propels the research of Prof. Alex Golberg, Head of the Laboratory of Environmental Bioengineering at the Porter School of Environmental Studies. In Golberg's laboratory the problems are hunger and energy, the algae is seaweed, the farm is offshore, and the product is biomass.

As a young scientist studying food and biotechnology, Golberg learned that there is no viable, sustainable substitute for soy protein. It was then he first considered multicellular macroalgae as such a source of protein. Today he regards macroalgae as biomass that can be utilized for proteins and sugars,

medicines, chemicals, and fuel. And he views the sea as an alternative for cultivable land.

“We have an untapped resource—the ocean—occupying 70% of the earth's surface. We can grow biomass in compact offshore farms and process it in local marine biorefineries, extracting proteins and producing bioethanol. Our



Rinat Semyatich

lab investigates how to limit the size of area needed for production. We are currently in talks with the Ministry of Agriculture to utilize a research site off the coast of Ashdod,” he notes.

“We are just at the beginning. The history of algae production begins with seaweed aquaculture in 17th-century Japan, while the history of plant agriculture is 20,000 years. So that is about where we are today on the timeline—at the beginning. That is why this is exciting,” Golberg concludes.

Cultivating Women Academics

The Ariane de Rothschild Women Doctoral Program addresses gender disparity in higher education in Israel

By Lisa Kremer

Top Israeli women scholars with a zeal for research are often shut out from pursuing doctoral studies due to financial limitations, childcare issues or a lack of support from home.

The Ariane de Rothschild Women Doctoral Program was established by the Edmond de Rothschild Caesarea Foundation to allow female PhD students to pursue teaching while also fulfilling their roles as mothers and wives. The ultimate aim is to boost the number of women in senior academic positions in Israel.

The Program has provided a four-year stipend and one-time academic travel grant to four women doctoral researchers at TAU who demonstrated academic excellence in their field. Recipients come from diverse social and geographical backgrounds, and are re-

quired to give back to society by engaging in volunteer educational activities to benefit underprivileged groups and inspire them to realize their ambitions.

A difficult equation

Program recipient Shiran Abadi is herself inspirational. She is a diabetic and has to inject insulin a number of times each day. As a teenager with a knack for programming, she dreamed of combining her computer science skills with medicine to fight disease. Abadi found the perfect combination in bioinformatics – an interdisciplinary field that develops methods and tools for understanding biological data. She completed her BSc and MSc in TAU’s Edmond J. Safra Bioinformatics Program.

Abadi’s research was ramping up and she had an enthusiastic mentor in Prof. Itay Mayrose. Yet when she did the math of pursuing a PhD, the numbers did not add up. With hundreds of dollars in medical expenses monthly and un-

both her PhD and her dream of contributing to human health. She discusses the impact her research can make: “Before, to determine which gene causes an illness, we checked candidate genes one by one. Today with big data, we can compare *all* the genes of people with a disease to identify the culprits. I investigate how to silence disease-causing genes without creating collateral damage to the body. My research can be applied to any disease with a genetic component.”

Three more women

Also in the program is Maayan Keshev, a graduate of TAU’s Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students. She also holds an MSc from the TAU Sagol School of Neuroscience and is conducting linguistics research at the Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities. Tasneem Bareia, who holds an MSc from the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, is researching how bacteria communicate to help thwart disease; Iman Jaljuli, who is on a direct PhD track at the Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Mathematical Sciences, is developing statistical methods to ensure the reliability of scientific experiments and clinical trials.

“The Ariane de Rothschild Women Doctoral Program enables talented scientists to embark on studies that expand the boundaries of human knowledge and reshape the nature of society and the economy. We believe that lifting financial constraints will empower brilliant female PhD students, such as Shiran, Maayan, Tasneem and Iman, to devote themselves more fully

to their research and unleash their unique contribution to academia and to Israel,” said Vardit Gilor, Program Manager at the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation.

able to take a side job due to her health, Abadi felt that a career in computer science research was out of reach. Today, as an Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship recipient, Abadi is pursuing

Shiran Abadi



“

“I no longer have to struggle to make ends meet in order to pursue science. I am focused on my research rather than on simply trying to survive.”

—Shiran Abadi, PhD student in bioinformatics



Alumni Profile: Judith Yovel Recanati

TAU Honorary Doctor and social entrepreneur

Judith Yovel Recanati, daughter of the Recanati banking family, was raised from childhood to give back to the community. Today, as a prominent social entrepreneur, Recanati heads a uniquely Israeli non-profit organization: NATAL – the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War.

A collective trauma

Recanati traces the roots of her life's work back to the fateful year of 1973. "Like most Israelis of my generation, I was deeply shaken by the events of the Yom Kippur War," she recalls. "Ours was the generation of young commanders who were hit hardest of all. Fifteen of the young men who graduated with me from high school just three years earlier were killed in that war. Others were severely injured. And those of us who emerged whole physically were greatly

affected emotionally. That war changed our country and our lives forever."

Recanati married her fiancé Rolly (Israel) Yovel, a TAU medical student, and enrolled in archeology studies at TAU. "Archeology was my way of finding meaning and historical perspective in the heavy price we pay for this land," she explains. Participating in excavations at Tel Sheva under the legendary Prof. Yohanan Aharoni, and at Tel Lachish with Prof. David Ussishkin, she loved touching history with her bare hands.

From therapist to social leader

In the mid-1980s, Recanati became an art therapist, using photography to help people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In 1997 she co-founded NATAL with psychiatrist Dr. Yossi Hadar, but when he died only

two short weeks after the launch, Judith made the decision to carry on with their shared mission alone. Finding herself at the head of a fast-growing organization, she discovered her true calling – social entrepreneurship. "NATAL is my life's mission," she says. "Being able to help so many people gives me immeasurable satisfaction."

Under Recanati's leadership NATAL, now in its 19th year, has developed its own unique modus operandi and assisted in the rehabilitation of over 215,000 Israelis suffering from the psychological aftermath of terror and war. The nationwide organization offers helplines and diverse treatments for some 500 people a week, in addition to many other activities.

Recanati is involved in a range of other initiatives. She chairs the Gandyr Family Foundation, which she founded with her late husband and three daughters, all of whom studied at TAU; Sheatufim – Strategies for Social Impact; and the Committed to Give (CTG) Group promoting Israeli philanthropy. She also serves on the boards of several civil society organizations.

Lifetime association with TAU

Throughout Recanati's active and eventful life, Tel Aviv University has been a constant companion. She still remembers the 1966 inauguration of the Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration, named for her late grandfather. Reinforcing her family's connection to business studies at TAU, she recently made a donation toward the renovation of the lobby of the Recanati Building. In addition, she also serves as a TAU Governor, and has established NATAL's Multidisciplinary Trauma Studies Center in collaboration with the Sackler School of Medicine.

TAU recognized Judith Yovel Recanati's impact on Israel society with the 2008 President's Award for volunteerism and an honorary doctorate in 2013.

By Michal Alexander

On the Frontiers of Brain Science



The recent expansion of TAU's Sagol School of Neuroscience will accelerate treatments for stroke and sleep disorders as well as other brain disorders

Today, rehabilitation after a stroke relies largely on physical therapy, which can be exhausting and time-consuming. Now, neuroscientists at TAU's Sagol School of Neuroscience are teaching paralyzed limbs to move in a project that could have major implications for stroke victims. A research team led by Prof. Roy Mukamel, of the Sagol School and the School of Psychological Sciences, a 2017 Kadar Award winner, studied how virtual reality (VR) technology could improve movement in people's hands. Mukamel has applied his lab findings to try and help actual patients at the TAU-affiliated Loewenstein Rehabilitation Center move damaged limbs.

Mukamel's study is just one of 140 research projects being conducted at the Sagol School, the largest framework for brain research and teaching in Israel and a world hub in the field. The School was recently granted an additional donation of \$10 million from its founder, TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor Sami Sagol. This in-

jection of funds will boost the number of students, scholarships, faculty and activities at the School, which serves as an interdisciplinary framework for scientists from units across the TAU campus – life sciences, medicine, engineering, psychology, exact sciences and more.

The School has yielded breakthroughs that include a new drug candidate for treating Alzheimer's disease, a molecule that could serve as the basis for a drug that counters multiple sclerosis, a gene that points out a predisposition to Alzheimer's, and a tool for detecting post-traumatic stress syndrome among soldiers before symptoms appear.

Since the School's establishment in 2011, the number of students has grown from 45 to 328, and faculty from 58 to 135.

Improving Motion

Mukamel and his team seek to improve the functioning of hands affected by stroke or other neurological disorders.



He explains one common method, which is primarily passive on the part of the patient; for example, someone else moves the patient's fingers to complete a task like eating or writing. Cross-education is another option: practicing with one's left hand improves the abilities of the right.

Mukamel's research explored alternative ways of improving hand performance through involuntary movements. Using virtual reality, familiar to most of us through movies or devices that deliver sensations like riding a roller coaster or flying, the researchers gave lab subjects a virtual view of both their hands. When one hand moved, the other appeared to be moving as well, a "trick" that improved the functioning of both hands.

In the second stage of research, which involved new subjects, the researchers added an apparatus that allowed subjects to move their right hand on their own but moved their left hand for them. This showed how subjects' left hands precisely – *but passively* – mimicked their right hand movements.

This technique, coupled with VR, significantly improved movement – an achievement that has implications for rehabilitative therapy aimed at neurologically-damaged patients. In related work, Mukamel's team is investigating how athletes or musicians learn to perform their motor actions.

Science as Art

Another researcher at the School views himself as a sort-of artist. "I look at my work like art. If I had a motto it would be 'practical knowledge through the art of science,'" says Yaniv Sela, 28, a PhD student at the lab of Dr. Yuval Nir. Apparently, Yaniv's "art" enjoys an appreciative audience, as he was chosen this year to receive the prestigious Azrieli Doctoral Fellowship awarded by the Azrieli Foundation. Only ten students from throughout Israel are chosen for this honor each year.

Sela's doctoral project has wide-ranging implications for neurological disease. He focuses on sleep, which he nicknames the "holy grail" of science. "During sleep, our brain undergoes a disconnection from the external environment. I am interested in that disconnection," says Sela.

This disengagement, according to Sela, is present in all animal life, even worms. Scientists hold that this time-



Yaniv Sela

out may serve as a kind of maintenance period that gives the brain the chance to clean or fix itself, or consolidate memories.

One of the most pronounced differences between wakefulness and sleep is the completely different set of chemicals, or "biochemical bath," that occurs in the brain. "Through manipulations, we can add or take away chemicals present in the brain in various states and examine the effect on neurons and behavior. Understanding the disconnection phenomenon will help shed light on what happens in the brain during sleep," says Sela, adding that this has been an open question in neuroscience for some time.

"It will aid in the development of better treatments for disorders like insomnia, hyperarousal and narcolepsy," he continues. He believes that in the more distant future, scientists will find

links between the sleep disconnection and neurological conditions like schizophrenia and autism.

Another of Sela's major interests lies in boosting learning efficiency.

As an example, he points to students who study for tests and promptly forget all they have learned once exams are over. He would like to find ways of keeping that, and other information, accessible.

Ever moving forward, the Sagol School recently inaugurated two new centers, BrainBoost and Minducate. According to Prof. Uri Ashery, Head of the School, these centers will allow young, talented doctoral and post-doctoral researchers to innovate next-generation technologies to combat brain disorders and improve learning. "The brain remains the Wild West of biomedical science, a huge frontier waiting to be conquered," says Prof. Ashery. "At the Sagol School we have our spurs on and whips out. We're enthusiastic and we're ready."

The Sagol School of Neuroscience was founded by Sami Sagol, an Israeli champion of brain studies, together with his wife, Tova. The Sagols also support initiatives promoting higher education, science, coexistence and the bridging of social and economic gaps.

The ISEF Foundation, now celebrating its 40th anniversary, is one of the major organizations addressing social and educational gaps in Israeli society. Guided by its motto – “A different way of protecting Israel: developing its brainpower” – ISEF’s fellowships have nurtured hundreds of TAU students, many of whom have gone on to hold leading positions in every sector of Israel’s economy and society. And every one of these graduates is committed to giving back the life-changing gift they have received by helping others follow in their footsteps.

These are the stories of three young people whose lives and futures have been transformed by this unique alliance.

Yan Bihdriker: Diplomat in the making

ISEF student Yan Bihdriker, 25, is studying at TAU for a BA in Political Science and American Studies. Living with his ailing, unemployed mother and 86-year-old grandfather in a tiny public housing apartment, Yan knows full well that his ticket out of poverty and toward his dreams are excellence, hard work and ISEF.

Born in Uzbekistan in 1991, Yan remembers watching the news on TV as a small child. “I’ve always been interested in politics,” says Yan, who came to Israel at the age of seven and speaks three languages fluently: Russian, Hebrew and English. “So, even though my mother would probably like to see me in a well-paid high-tech job, I’d prefer to become a diplomat.”

After being admitted to TAU, Yan applied for every possible scholarship, and finally chose ISEF “because I was fascinated by their Leadership Program, which is highly relevant to my objectives.” Now in his third year of studies, Yan participates in ISEF’s highly selective internship program, conducting research and writing policy papers for the Department of Strategy



A Partner for Social Equality

Tel Aviv University has worked with the ISEF Foundation for 40 years for the advancement of Israeli society

and Policy at Israel’s Ministry of Public Security.

But perhaps most important for Yan is ISEF’s unique sense of family. “My elder ‘brothers and sisters’ in ISEF hold leading positions in every sector, and they can open doors for me,” he says. ISEF is definitely pointing Yan in the right direction for his next endeavor: to attend one of the world’s top graduate schools, such as Harvard or Columbia University.

Hen Biton: Role model and future brain scientist

Where Hen Biton comes from, the town of Nesher just north of Haifa, an academic career is anything but the

normal course for a young woman of 24. “For most of the people I grew up with, the university is an unknown world, seemingly beyond their reach,” says Hen. But for this gifted student taking a double major in biology and psychology with an emphasis on neu-



Hen Biton



rosience, “the sky is the limit” is not a cliché but a way of life. And ISEF is her ideal launching pad.

“I’m curious by nature,” says Hen. “I’ve always wanted to learn and to know things, and the university is the ultimate environment for me. My greatest aspiration is to become an academic researcher.” But as fascinated as she is by her studies, Hen is certain that her university experience would not have been complete without ISEF’s support and mentorship.

“The ISEF Leadership Program opened my eyes to the real social and educational issues in our country,” she explains. “It helps you ask the right questions – about your identity, where you came from and where you’re going. Moreover, when I first came to TAU, ISEF helped me feel at home. I knew I always had someone to turn to.”

Volunteering in the community, also through the ISEF program, Hen found that she had a lot to offer youngsters from similar backgrounds. “We ISEF students know how to help these kids,” she says. “Most important, we serve as their role models, bringing ISEF’s all-important message: ‘If I could do it, you can too.’” Today, in her third year at TAU, Hen is one of six ISEF coordinators, specifically chosen for their leadership skills, who guide groups of younger ISEF students at their respective institutions.

And Hen herself is also guided by the accomplishments of her predecessors, including numerous ISEF scholars who have become successful in academia. One major beacon is leading TAU faculty member, ISEF graduate and recently appointed ISEF Chairperson, Dr. Vered

Padler-Karavani of the George. S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences.

Dr. Vered Padler-Karavani: Trailblazer

“My first encounter with TAU occurred in the 3rd grade, when I attended the program for science oriented youth,” recalls Dr. Padler-Karavani. “It was love at first sight. I decided right away that I would be a scientist when I grew up.” But for the young girl from Rosh HaAyin, such aspirations were unusual, and academic studies seemed very far away. “My parents sent me to a good high school, but they didn’t have the means to send me to university,” she says. That’s when Vered discovered

their potential medical applications – she did her postdoctoral research at the University of California San Diego, and returned to TAU in 2013 to start her own lab and join ISEF Israel’s Executive Committee. Gradually attaining prominence in the scientific community, she is currently a member of an international consortium on heart disease supported by the EU, and has also received a substantial grant from the European Research Council. In 2016 she finally came full circle, becoming the volunteer Chairperson of ISEF Israel.

The ISEF Foundation was established in 1977 by prominent philanthropists, the late Edmond J. Safra; his widow, Lily



ISEF.

“ISEF doesn’t just support you financially,” she emphasizes. “ISEF has a social agenda: closing gaps through education. And ISEF teaches you that once you’ve made it, you must help others do it too. This is the ISEF way, proven time and time again – with a staggering success rate of 96%! For all ISEF scholars, it’s a way of life and a lifetime commitment.”

ISEF supported Vered through her BSc, MSc and PhD degrees, all at TAU. Choosing to specialize in Glycobiology – the study of sugars in living cells and

Safra, a TAU Honorary Doctor; and Ms. Nina Weiner, who has served as the organization’s President since its inception. Supporting an average of 500 students at 21 Israeli institutions every year, ISEF is the only non-profit organization that stands behind its students throughout their studies – from the undergraduate stage all the way to postdoctoral research at leading institutions worldwide. Mrs. Lily Safra has initiated many educational projects in memory of her husband, including the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics.



The ISEF
community
at TAU



Dr. Vered
Padler-
Karavani

Love, Forgiveness, Cruelty and Judgment

This past year, a film by Maya Sarfaty, alumna of TAU's Steve Tisch School of Film and Television, won the Student Academy Award Gold Medal for foreign documentary. *The Most Beautiful Woman* tells the story of Helena, a young Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz, and Franz, the SS officer who fell in love with her, kept her safe, and rescued her sister Rosa but not Rosa's two children in the camp. TAU Review spoke to Maya about the creative process.

How did you come to tell this story?

I have always been attracted to stories, and I first heard about Helena, Franz and Rosa's story as a young girl attending drama school.

After the war, Rosa built a new family in Israel and her daughter Miki Marin was my drama teacher. Later, on a high school mission to Auschwitz, I met my first boyfriend. In love for the first time,

I naively believed I could understand Helena and Franz's bond. I think then I knew I would bring their story to the world.



Did you always want to be a filmmaker?

No, I was sure I would be an actor. But after acting school, I began a BA in literature. My husband Nir Saar was studying film at Tel Aviv University, and we worked as writer and director on *Still Waters*—part of TAU's Palestinian-Israeli "Water" series that premiered at the Venice Film Festival. I

eventually realized I wanted to become a filmmaker, and I completed my MFA at TAU's Steve Tisch School of Film and Television.

How was that experience?

It was great! I received all the artistic and practical support I needed—

mentors, equipment, finance. *The Most Beautiful Woman* received support from the Blavatnik Student Film Production Fund and the Berenstein Fund.

So how did the film take shape?

I learned that a British novelist was writing about Helena and Franz. It turns out the author is married to Franz's daughter. He sent me diary excerpts and video testimony. Until that time I had only done fiction, but I quickly realized that, for such an unbelievable story, a documentary format would be best. I focused on the second generation and facilitated a meeting in Israel between the children of Helena, Franz and Rosa—the film's climax.

You are now working on a feature film based on the story...

While making *The Most Beautiful Woman*, I knew it could be a bigger story. Helena was on the first transport of 1,000 girls from Slovakia to Auschwitz. I am now researching Franz's trial in Austria in which Helena and Rosa testified. At Yad Vashem I listen to recordings of testimonies to find survivors who may have known Helena and Franz. I have already found and filmed three. I plastered Helena and Rosa's town of Humenné, Slovakia, with posters seeking people who knew the family before the war. I know how Jewish prisoners viewed Helena and Franz's relationship. I want to locate SS officers who knew. I am racing against time.

Is it difficult to continue, to stay with this story?

I think nothing can shock me anymore, yet it *is* a difficult choice to keep listening. It makes me think and ask questions about love and forgiveness and cruelty and judgment. These questions need to be asked.



▲
Maya Sarfaty

Dead Sea Is Living Laboratory for New Porter Institute

Institute will serve as a hub for researchers from Israel, the region and the world studying life under extreme conditions

There's one thing that's not dead about the Dead Sea: The world's interest in it.

From NASA's fascination with its hardy, salt-tolerant bacteria to scientists' surprise at its medicinal potential, the Dead Sea environment could provide a wealth of discovery. Now, to mine this unique region's potential, Tel Aviv University has joined with the Porter Foundation, Tamar Regional Council, Dead Sea and Arava Science Center, ICA Foundation and Ministry of Regional Cooperation to establish the new Porter Dead Sea Research Institute for Life under Extreme Conditions. The institute is housed in a heritage building at the foot of the historic site of Masada.

The project capitalizes on TAU's strong showing in Dead Sea studies. According to Dr. Mira Marcus-Kalish, TAU Director of International Scientific Relations and a lead initiator of the institute, TAU researchers already work in some 30 fields related to the Dead

Sea. These include the environment, health, geology, zoology, meteorology, archaeology and religion.

The new institute is expected to attract hundreds of Israeli and international scientists, including from Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, for collaborative projects.

Salty, dry and hot

At 429 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest spot on Earth. It is the saltiest body of water on the planet and receives only 2 inches of rainfall annually. Yet remarkably, bacteria and fungi subsist under the super saline and arid conditions, making the Dead Sea an ideal location for researching life under extreme conditions. This emerging field is already attracting millions of dollars of investment by NASA.

Dr. Marcus-Kalish stressed the wide variety of medical publications on the Dead Sea, many by TAU faculty members. "While Dead Sea mud is

world-famous for its efficacy against skin diseases, the mineral-rich mud and water has also been found to ease the pain of arthritis and to retard aging. The air, which has 6% more oxygen and is allergen-free, could ease the symptoms and improve quality of life of asthma, lung and heart patients," she said at the inauguration ceremony of the Institute.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said, "We hope that the studies carried out within the framework of this Institute will bear fruit in the fields of basic and applied research that will benefit the environment and people in Israel. We expect the Institute to attract wide interest all over the world, at a time when it has to face extreme phenomena in many areas."

Head of the Tamar Regional Council Dov Litwinoff said, "future studies here will provide answers to many questions about the wonders of the area we live in and will attract top class researchers who will contribute to this field."

Humped Bladderwort



Satan's Tongue



Star Orchid



Rothschild Sorrell



Vanilla Orchid

Eternal Spring at the Botanic Garden

From an endangered plant that carries the Rothschild name to an orchid producing vanilla spice, each plant in the Tel Aviv University Botanic Garden tells a story. Below is a sampling.

By Louise Shalev

Rothschild Sorrel (*Rumex Rothschildianus*)

This annual herb was named in 1906 in honor of Baron Edmond de Rothschild by the legendary botanist Aharon Aharonson, discoverer of wild *emmer*, the “mother of wheat.” The plant, on the brink of extinction, is endemic to Israel’s Sharon region. It can be found at the Noah Naftulski Ecological Garden of Israel Vegetation in an area designated “red” for critically endangered plants of the coastal plain.

Humped Bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*)

As strange in looks as in name, this mat-like plant grows in ponds, doesn’t

have true roots and bears small, highly sensitive bladders that it keeps underwater. Any time a tiny fish brushes past one of these bladders, it expands, opens up, sucks in the animal and digests it. It’s like a Venus flytrap and a vacuum cleaner all in one. It grows in the aquatic plants pool at the entrance to the Daphna Carasso Garden for Tropical Plants.

Satan’s Tongue (*Amorphophallus konjac*)

This exotic Asian plant packs a devil of a punch – it is reputedly the world’s smelliest plant! Part of the Araceae family, it consists of a broad dark leaf that can grow one meter high, wrapped

around a thick cob with hundreds of unisex flowers at its base. At the bottom of the cob are female flowers that produce the fruit, and above them are male flowers that spread their pollen. Planted in the tropical greenhouse in 2002, the plant generally flowers only once every few years; nonetheless, at TAU it has flowered for the past three years in a row.

Star Orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*)

This orchid was discovered in Madagascar in 1798 by a French botanist who named it “Star of Bethlehem” because of its bright, star-like flowers. It is noteworthy for its long nectar spur



iris, which exclusively grows on the coast of Israel. With rapid urbanization threatening its habitats, the plant was close to extinction. Yet, thanks to the dedication of Garden Director Dr. Yuval Sapir and colleagues, it is once again thriving. Sapir's research has shown that irises offer an unusual reward to their wild bee pollinators – a cozy and safe shelter to sleep for the night. The flower's morning warmth enables the pollinators to begin their day earlier than those who sleep in cracks in rocks and other cooler places, thereby giving them a competitive edge.

and education in Israel. Researchers hail from botany, agriculture, ecology and genetics, and address issues ranging from increasing crop yields, to the effects of climate change on plants, to saving plant species on the verge of extinction.

Already a national treasure with some 10,000 visitors per year, the Garden is anticipated to attract unprecedented numbers of visitors upon the opening of the adjacent Steinhardt Museum of Natural History in Summer 2017. Estimates indicate that up to 200,000 children and adults from Israel and worldwide will visit annually, making the Garden the most highly visited facility of its kind in the country. The Garden was founded by the late Prof. Jacob Galil who established the Department of Botany at Tel Aviv University and headed it for nearly 20 years.

and its association with the naturalist Charles Darwin, who proposed that the flower was pollinated by an as yet undiscovered moth with an unusually long mouthpart. His prediction was proven 21 years after his death when the moth was discovered. The story has come to be seen as one of the celebrated corroborations for the theory of evolution. The orchid is one of the oldest in the TAU Garden and, with loving persistence, it began flowering in 2012.

Vanilla Orchid (*Vanilla planifolia*)

The vanilla orchid is one of the most unique specimens in the Tropical Greenhouse. Its seed pods are the source of the vanilla spice, which was first used to flavor drinks by the Aztecs. The orchids grow wild in tropical regions of Mexico, but the main global production centers are in Madagascar and Indonesia. The flower is large and impressive but blooms for only one day. At TAU traditional methods of hand pollination are used to produce pods. The first plant was brought to TAU from London's Kew Gardens in the 1970s.

Purple Iris (*Iris atropurpurea*)

TAU researchers play a major role in the conservation of the elusive purple

Botanic Garden: Key Israeli Landmark

Stretching over a 34-dunam area, TAU's Botanic Garden is a living laboratory for plant sciences research and a vital resource for nature conservation

NEW ENTRANCE PLAZA

A stunning new entrance plaza will be built to accommodate the Garden's growth, featuring a beautiful entrance gate, seating areas, flower bed displays and connections to the main Garden paths. The plaza, designed by Julie Levy-Peled, is supported by TAU Governor Lili Peyser through her family's Foundation for Development and Progress. A dedicated member of the Israeli Friends Association, Mrs. Peyser has a longtime connection with TAU and the Botanic Garden through her father, the late Emanuel Racine, a TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor, and her late mother, Sarah, in whose name the Sarah Racine Root Laboratory was established.



After completing an undergraduate degree in international affairs, Sarah Zimskind from Pennsylvania was keen to broaden her horizons and knowledge in security. She heard about the international MA in Security and Diplomacy offered at TAU International, Tel Aviv University's international school, and thought, "Where better to expand my knowledge in security than the Middle East?" Now working for a congressman in Washington, DC, the 2016 alumna explains that the TAU program offers a different perspective than anything available in the USA. "The teachers have life experience in the political and military system – one of my professors worked on the peace treaty with Egypt! You can't get that perspective anywhere else," says Sarah.

Sarah adds that the research opportunities of the TAU program are a unique feature. "It was like a dream," she says. "I received a research assistantship and came out of my master's with two co-authored papers – on security, international relations and intelligence – at the age of 23!"

Recent graduate Daniel Solomon from India thinks of Israel as "a living laboratory." In Mumbai he worked to prevent human trafficking but knew terrorism was on the rise and Israel was the right place to study it.

Today Daniel, who is an Israel Asia Leaders Fellow, sees himself working in Israel and India in the homeland security and defense sphere. After hearing mainly negative Israel stories back in India, he now strongly encourages students to come and get a taste of Israel themselves, "to learn more about the culture and the diversity – and also the falafel and the hummus."

Current student Gabriel Boulianne Gobeil, 26, from Canada, was keen to study under scientists and engineers investigating artificial intelligence and to understand how their strategies translate into battlefield technologies. Gabriel knew that coming to Israel was go-

ing to be different because security is a major priority here. "Being here not only exposes me to the conflicts and geopolitical tensions, but I actually live them and feel the pulse of the situation," he says. Alongside his TAU studies, Gabriel is interning as an intelligence analyst for a private security firm. He believes that he will go back to Canada with a wide range of skills useful to his home community.

Beyond the program and the university, for a lot of students it is their first time visiting Israel and the region. As Gabriel says, "living in a different country is a nourishing experience." He talks about returning to Canada as an ambassador for Israel, ready to share his experiences and educate his friends and colleagues. And although he's only just starting the program, Gabriel is wise enough to understand that "it's a degree that only takes a year to complete, but lasts for a lifetime."

A melting pot of diversity

As students from all corners of the globe converge on TAU, its melting

Mastering Security and Diplomacy on the Frontlines

Taught entirely in English, TAU's International MA in Security and Diplomacy is bringing unique Israeli insights and a world-class education to top students from all over the world

pot atmosphere becomes one of the most memorable parts of the international MA. Sarah recalls the stimulating conversations that took place in class. "We had Europeans who traditionally have fewer security risks to worry about and a more diplomatic mindset, alongside Israelis who served in the IDF and Americans concerned about terrorism." She emphasizes that this diversity contributes to the value of the program.

David Allouche, a new immigrant from France who completed the master's program in 2014, still refers to his fellow graduates as a "small family." He reflects back to the 2014 Gaza war, when the program arranged emergency meetings with various professors for students to hear and discuss diverse viewpoints. "How many universities could offer that?!" challenges David.

After graduating, David was recruited to the IDF. At the same time, he launched an online portal for young experts' opinions on international affairs: www.young-diplomats.com. He notes that the TAU program helped him





to network for his future career – he met professors, ambassadors and fellow students who now work with him on his start-up. Moreover, David says that he implements everything that he learnt at TAU in his IDF role as an intelligence research assistant.

Hands-on experience

Another highlight for many students is the regular ambassador forums featuring speakers from various countries. David highlights how the program led him to his own mentor, the Israeli Ambassador to Cyprus, who helped him build important career connections.

After transferring to TAU after just one year of a political science PhD in

Canada, Gabriel says he preferred to pursue a program that “implemented his knowledge.” With field trips to Syria, Lebanon and West Bank borders, as well as intimate educational tours within Israel, the practical exposure offered by the program “cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world,” he says.

Prof. Azar Gat, Academic Director of the Program and incumbent of the Ezer Weizman Chair in National Security Studies, agrees there is no better place to study security and diplomacy – and that the strong reputation of lecturers in the program is a key draw for students. He believes that because young adults are very career-focused, the program

gives its students an edge over their competitors for jobs.

Director of TAU International Maureen Meyer Adiri adds, “Young adults see studying as an opportunity to travel the world. TAU is catering to the global student and today offers more than 30 international programs – degree and non-degree – together with financial aid. Students are keen to mention the helpful and professional conduct of TAU staff – all the way from their initial application to career guidance upon graduation.

“We offer them not only top notch studies, but also immersive extracurricular activities and a home away from home,” Meyer Adiri concludes.

SYLVAN ADAMS SPORTS INSTITUTE

Israel: The Startup Sporting Nation

New Sylvan Adams Sports Institute will aim to convert Israeli athletic potential into Olympic medals

Israel may not yet be a world leader in international sports competitions, but its standing as an innovation powerhouse is undisputed. Recognizing this, new immigrant to Israel Sylvan Adams, formerly of Montreal, recently committed to establishing a Sports Institute at TAU. The Institute will conduct rigorous scientific research as well as sports testing and training. It will draw on the ingenuity of biomedical engineers, medical scientists and other TAU researchers to raise the overall level of Israeli sports achievement in national and international competitions.

The Institute is the brainchild of Sylvan Adams, a TAU Governor, second-generation donor and himself an amateur cycling champion and World, Canadian and Maccabiah gold medalist. His motivation is simple: to enhance Israel's international image through sport. "I want to promote Israel as a startup sporting nation," he says. "Israel is in the news every day, largely in a negative context. I want to change this channel by promoting normal activities that get publicity...Sport is a great tool for advancing what I term 'normal Israel.'"

The Institute will widen the scope of sports medicine by conducting extensive research on high performance sports.

TAU President Joseph Klafter says: "We're very excited about the opportunities being ushered in by the new institute. Leveraging TAU's broad ties with hospitals and national

sports associations, Institute researchers will formulate new and improved testing and training methodologies that will ultimately raise Israeli athletic standards.

"We admire and appreciate Sylvan's long range vision for Tel Aviv University, for the field of exercise science, and for the State of Israel," says Prof. Klafter. "We're grateful for his friendship and support."

The Institute will be led by TAU's Prof. Mickey Scheinowitz, an exercise physiologist and Chair of the TAU Department of Biomedical Engineering.

To be established over several years, the Institute's permanent home will be a 2,000+ square meter building featuring state-of-the-art research labs and a range of testing and training facilities for cycling, swimming, running and triathlon. It is expected to become a vital national resource, partnering with the Israel Olympic Committee, the IDF Combat Fitness Center, and a range of other national sports associations that have already expressed a willingness to cooperate with the Institute.

The Institute will harness TAU's world-class academic, clinical and sports expertise, its close ties with 14 affiliated hospitals and its sports facilities to instill new standards of performance excellence among Israeli athletes.



▲ Sylvan Adams

The planned facility





The Zvi and Ofra Meitar Family Fund has confirmed a generous new donation that will secure the future of the Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies for the next 20 years. A festive signing ceremony marking the gift was attended by Ofra Meitar and her children, Dafna Meitar-Nechmad and Aviad Meitar, both alumni of TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law. They were joined by TAU President Joseph Klafter, Vice President Raanan Rein, Chairman of the Board of Governors Jacob A. Frenkel, Rector Yaron Oz, Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad and other senior TAU officials.

"The Center's achievements in its first decade have exceeded all expectations," said Dafna Meitar-Nechmad, President of the Zvi and Ofra Meitar Family Fund. "This success can be measured not only in terms of the number of research students, nor the impressive senior positions they hold throughout the Israeli legal system. Our mission from the start was to establish a center of excellence by bringing in some of the world's top legal minds. Hosting these special guests, as many as 25 every year, has been our most meaningful achievement. It has enabled us to create an unparalleled research hub that has also significantly enhanced teaching at the Buchmann Faculty of Law."

The Center was established in 2007 by the late Zvi Meitar, a leading Israeli legal specialist, philanthropist and public figure. The intent was to reward excellence among brilliant young legal researchers and to transform TAU into an internationally renowned hub of excellence in legal research. And it has succeeded. Meitar Scholars are having a dramatic impact on academia and the court system, hold senior positions in the public and political sectors, and are being accepted for post-doctoral studies at top universities such as Harvard and Yale.

Meitar family members are committed friends of TAU and see the Zvi Meitar Center as a social investment that harnesses the power of education to enhance society. Both Dafna and Aviad are engaged partners, taking part in the fundraising and budgetary aspects and contributing their professional expertise and considerable time and effort toward



Pictured, from left: Chairman of the Board of Governors Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel; TAU President Joseph Klafter; Dafna Meitar-Nechmad; Ofra Meitar; Aviad Meitar; and Rector Yaron Oz

ZVI MEITAR CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

Meitar Center Globalizes Legal Studies in Israel

The Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies continues to bring leading international minds to the TAU campus and promote excellence in legal scholarship

the Center's success. Dafna has also spearheaded another important initiative at TAU's law faculty – the Institute for Law and Philanthropy. It aims to improve regulation and taxation of philanthropy in Israel, and thereby support the country's non-profit sector in its quest to foster a more prosperous and equitable society.

In addition, Dafna is serving as Co-Chair of TAU's 10-year Capital Campaign. In this role, she will lead a Campaign Cabinet, comprising TAU friends and supporters from around the world, in cooperation with TAU's senior leadership. The goal of the campaign is to secure the continued growth and impact of the University by raising \$1 billion over the coming decade.



From left: TAU Honorary Doctor Prof. Paul Zimmet, TAU Governor Vivien Zimmet and Prof. Kronfeld-Schor

Annual Gutwirth Prize

The 2017 Hendrik and Irene Gutwirth Research Prize in Diabetes Mellitus was awarded to Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Chair of the School of Zoology and Head of the Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology Laboratory at the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. She received it for research on the connection between disturbances in circadian rhythm (the "body clock") and type 2 diabetes using the Israeli sand-rat from the Negev. The prize is given annually by Prof. Paul Zimmet and Mrs. Vivien Zimmet of Melbourne, Australia, in memory of Vivien's late parents Hendrik and Irene Gutwirth, as part of the yearly ceremony marking the contributions of the extended Gutwirth family to TAU.

A major gift is boosting the pioneering cancer research of TAU's Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, a world leader in nanomedicine and cancer at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Sackler Faculty of Medicine. The Morris Kahn 3D Printing for Cancer Research Initiative is dedicated to the three-dimensional printing of live cancerous tumors.

At the inauguration, attendees viewed a demonstration of the state-of-the-art 3D bioprinter acquired through the Initiative.

"Until now, the cell culture process that enabled us to test the efficacy of various drugs on a patient's tumor in the lab could take up to nine months. By that time, the tumor

effective diagnostic and therapeutic technologies that ease suffering and save lives.

New cancer drugs

The Initiative could shift the trajectory of cancer research toward more successful drug development. Until now, despite the billions of dollars invested in cancer research over past decades, only 5% of anti-cancer drug candidates ultimately receive FDA approval. Some scientists attribute this failure to the traditional "2D" approach of cancer cell culturing, which can lead to inaccurate results because it does not factor in the effects of the tumor's biological environment

and does not predict how a new drug might behave in the body.

Herein lies the advantage of the 3D approach: Since it incorporates the tumor's microenvironment into the equation, including the surrounding blood vessels, tissues and immune system functions, it can offer much more accurate results.

"The Kahn Initiative will significantly upgrade

MORRIS KAHN 3D CANCER PRINTING INITIATIVE

Curing Cancer in Three Dimensions?

Businessman and philanthropist Morris Kahn is championing futuristic medical technology



Morris Kahn (left) with TAU President Joseph Klafter

could be unrecognizable at best; or we could have already lost the patient at worst," said Prof. Satchi-Fainaro. "Thanks to the technology offered to us through the generosity of Mr. Kahn, we can now reduce the duration of this process to a single week – and potentially offer hope to thousands of cancer patients."

The Initiative's goals are twofold: To reveal the basic molecular mechanisms responsible for the progression of cancer into an aggressive, fast-growing, drug-resistant disease, and to open up new paths for translating findings into

basic, translational and clinical cancer research on campus and at affiliated hospitals," said TAU President Joseph Klafter. "I am confident that it will enhance TAU's contribution to health and wellbeing around the world."

In response, Mr. Kahn, a veteran Israeli entrepreneur and founder of Amdocs, said "Tel Aviv University has already given me so much simply by permitting me to be closely involved in such advanced research. For me, this cannot even be quantified in monetary terms and is all the recognition that I need."



Leor Bareli, one of 13 recipients of the Sean Carmeli Fund

TAU Establishes Lone Soldier Fund

Former lone soldiers in the IDF often need financial and other forms of support when entering university studies. To encourage them, ease their integration and enhance their chances at success, TAU's Harold Hartog School of Government and Policy, together with some 80 TAU donors from Israel and the USA, established the Sean

Carmeli Scholarship Fund for Lone Soldiers. The Fund commemorates fallen lone soldier First Sgt. Sean Carmeli, who was killed in action in 2014 during Operation Protective Edge. Sean was born in 1993 in Texas and grew up with a deep connection to Zionism. He made aliyah at age 16 and, two years later, was drafted into the IDF. Sean died during an intense battle in Gaza between Hamas and the Golani Brigade's 13th Battalion. Some 40,000 people attended Sean's funeral to pay final respects to the young man who sacrificed his life for the Jewish people. The vast majority had never met him.



From left: Sharon Levy-Balanga, Rina and Nissim Levy

PROFILE: NISSIM LEVY

Jumpstarting Social Mobility

The Nissim and Rina Levy Periphery Scholarship Fund expands chances and fulfills dreams

Israeli businessman Nissim Levy and his family are on a mission: to help students from underprivileged backgrounds excel and realize their academic and career potential. “There are so many brilliant kids from poor neighborhoods who wouldn’t be able to make it if someone didn’t give them a chance,” says Levy, who founded, together with his wife, Rina, the Nissim and Rina Levy Peripheral Scholarship Fund at TAU.

Each year, the Levy Fund provides 40 talented youngsters from distressed and outlying communities with generous scholarships and living stipends, career counseling, employment guidance, academic tutoring, emotional counseling and help in identifying learning disabilities. In return, students must maintain a 75% grade average and perform 12 hours of community service per month.

TAU’s Periphery Program admits participants based on their achievements relative to their high school peers. This entrance requirement replaces standardized admission test scores that tend to give an advantage to well-off students from the center of the country.

During a recent visit to TAU, Levy met with students in the program. “I was blown away by these students. They’re amazing, they are so smart,” he said. “I was right to put my faith in this great university.”

For Levy, who recently moved back to Israel from London

with his family, supporting the Periphery Program comes from a very personal place. “I grew up in Wadi Nisnas, the most deprived neighborhood of Haifa,” says Levy. “What pulled me through was my parents’ deep belief in education as the key to success. If you study, everything is open.”

From moon rocks to business

Levy completed his PhD at the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology and his post-doc at the University of Kansas, USA. He worked at NASA in San Francisco for two years, analyzing moon rocks from NASA’s space missions. “This was a very exciting time but I found myself at a crossroads – either to become a scientist or to take the riskier route into business. I chose business,” he says.

The risk paid off. His business interests eventually took him to London, where he built up several successful investment and real estate concerns along with a charitable family foundation.

In addition to supporting TAU and other universities, Levy is building a university himself: The Marbella International University Centre, which is affiliated with the University of West London and the Moscow Institute for International Relations.

“It was never just about the money,” says Levy. He and Rina have used their resources to support some of the most vulnerable groups in Israel. Organizations they back include Yad Layeled, which aids troubled youth in Kiryat Malakhi; the Sheba Medical Center; and a theater project for women who are victims of domestic abuse, among numerous others.

The Levys have three children and six grandchildren. Their daughter, Sharon Levy-Balanga, recently made aliyah and now works at TAU’s Unit for Social Involvement at the Ruth and Allen Ziegler Student Services Division. “With my parents there is a beautiful balance between studying and working hard, being successful, and never forgetting where they came from,” says Sharon. “This puts them in the right place to give back and this is what they have passed on to us – the next generation.”

TAU President Joseph Klafter praised the initiative, saying, “The Levy Fund is providing periphery students a world-class education. We want them to become role models for outstanding academic performance in their communities. We want to jumpstart social mobility with the finest undergraduate degrees that Israel has to offer.”

LIVING THE DREAM

“I was raised in Chabad (Lubavitch) institutions and worked overseas as a Chabad emissary. When I returned to Israel I got a job as a teacher. But my dream has always been to go to law school. Now, through the generosity of the Levy Fund, I’m in the law program at Israel’s best university.”

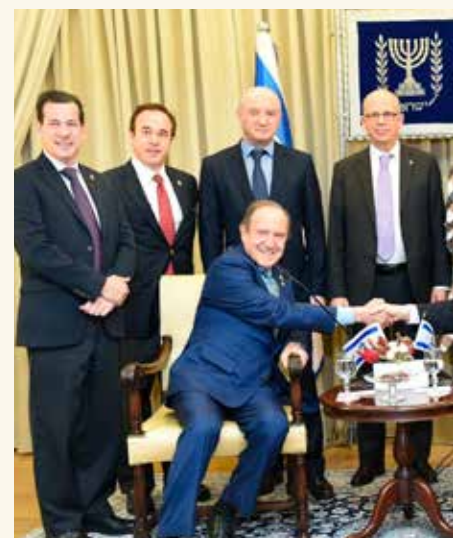


Rachel Wasserman, first-year student at the Buchmann Faculty of Law

ZUCKERMAN STEM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program Honored by President Rivlin

Program will advance research in STEM areas at Israel's four major research universities



American business leader and philanthropist Mortimer B. Zuckerman was recognized by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin for his \$100 million initiative to provide scholarships to the next generation of STEM researchers in the United States and Israel. The event at the President's residence was held in the presence of Mr. Zuckerman, Zuckerman Institute Trustees Eric J. Gertler and James S. Gertler, and the heads of the four participating Israeli universities.

Mr. Zuckerman launched the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program to support future generations of leaders in science, technology, engineering and math in the

United States and Israel and, over time, to foster greater collaboration between two of the world's most advanced scientific research powers. The Program enables the highest-achieving American post-doctoral researchers and graduate students to collaborate with eminent researchers at Israel's top research institutions: Tel Aviv University; the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology; and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

By providing American graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with exposure to Israel's cutting-edge research and startup culture, the Program will raise a gen-



From left: Prof. Michael Kozlov, Prof. Michael Urbakh, Prof. Michael Rossmann, Mrs. Karen Bogan, Prof. Jacques Prost, TAU President Joseph Klafter, TAU Vice President for R&D Yoav Henis and Prof. David Andelman

2016 Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics Awarded

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics in the field of physical principles of biological systems was awarded to two distinguished scientists. Prof. Jacques Prost of the Curie Institute, CNRS, France, and National University of Singapore was recognized for his seminal contributions to the physics of active soft matter and their applications to intra-cellular processes. Prof.

Michael Rossmann of Purdue University, US, won the prize for his pioneering contributions to high-resolution diffraction analysis of atomic structures of proteins and viruses.

The prize, administered by Tel Aviv University, was established through the generosity of TAU benefactors Dr. Raymond and Mrs. Beverly Sackler.



Pictured: Seated, Mortimer B. Zuckerman shakes hands with President Reuven Rivlin. Standing, from left: James S. Gertler, Trustee, Zuckerman Institute; Eric J. Gertler, Trustee, Zuckerman Institute; Prof. Daniel Zajfman, President, Weizmann Institute of Science; Prof. Joseph Klafter, President, Tel Aviv University; Prof. Yaffa Zilberhats, Head, Council for Higher Education Budget Committee; Prof. Peretz Lavie, President, Technion Institute of Technology; Menahem Ben-Sasson, President, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

eration of academic, scientific and industry leaders infused with a unique spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Program simultaneously bolsters Israeli research institutions by providing large-scale funding needed to develop top-tier research labs, projects and programs.

The Zuckerman Program, will, over time, help strengthen the US-Israel partnership as Zuckerman Scholars return to the United States after building long-lasting relationships rooted in collaboration. Israeli academic leaders returning to research institutions in Israel will similarly advance the overarching collaborative effort in science between the two nations as they continue to build bridges with their American colleagues.

Representing the four participating universities, TAU President Joseph Klafter said that the Zuckerman Program has infinite benefits on many levels. “By bringing topnotch American post-docs to Israeli campuses, the Program will generate cross-currents of knowledge, especially in emerging fields. The visitors will share their expertise with our scientists and take Israeli know-how back home to the USA, and American researchers will serve as ambassadors for Israeli science and society.

”It is a huge vote of confidence by Mort and the family in Israel and its leading universities to launch such a far-reaching, collaborative STEM Program,” Prof. Klafter said.

The first cohort of 14 Zuckerman Scholars began within the 2016–2017 academic year. At TAU, they include Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Joseph Kinghorn-Taenzer, who earned his doctorate at the University of Toronto and is involved in the ATLAS experiment at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider; and Zuckerman Faculty Scholar Dr. Ishay Pomerantz, who was recently hired with support by the Blavatnik President’s Faculty Recruitment Discretionary Fund to TAU’s Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy after completing a post-doc at the University of Texas at Austin.

TAU alumna Dr. Margarita Orlova will be pursuing research on honeybees as a Zuckerman Post-Doctoral Scholar at Arizona State University after specializing in entomology, animal communications and evolutionary biology.

New Home for Israel’s Future Innovation Leaders

Construction is underway for TAU’s Check Point Building, which will bring together two dynamic TAU learning hubs: the Blavatnik School of Computer Science and the Tel Aviv Youth University.

The cornerstone was laid by founder and CEO of Check Point Gil Shwed and President of the Rashi Foundation, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Gabi Ashkenazi. Check Point and the Rashi Foundation are major supporters of the new building. At the ceremony, an emotional Shwed said his involvement in the project was a “personal act”: when he was in high school he studied at TAU’s Tel Aviv Youth University, a science enrichment program for talented teens. He also said that “Israel’s standing as the start-up nation would not be possible without the work of the Blavatnik School of Computer Science.”

Prof. Yehuda Afek, then Head of the Blavatnik School, said that with the new building and its state-of-the-art facilities, the School stands to become one of the 20 best computer science schools in the world and the top school outside of the US.



From left: Then Head of the Youth University Shira Shofty, Prof. Yehuda Afek, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Gabi Ashkenazi, TAU President Joseph Klafter, Gil Shwed and attorney Hanina Brandes

London: Honoring Jeremy Coller

The UK Trust held a dazzling cocktail and dinner reception at the iconic Claridges Hotel in Mayfair to honor Jeremy Coller, benefactor of TAU's Coller School of Management. The event was attended by members of the Coller family; TAU President Prof. Joseph Klafter; Dean of the Coller School Prof. Moshe Zviran; TAU Governor Prof. Eli Talmor; TAU Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad; and Chairman of the TAU Trust Richard Anton. Mr. Coller, a TAU Honorary Doctor, is founder and CEO of Coller Capital.



From left: Amos Elad, Richard Anton, Jeremy Coller, Prof. Joseph Klafter and TAU Trust Chief Executive Cara Case

From left: Chairman of the TAU Trust Richard Anton, TAU Trust Chief Executive Cara Case, Maureen Lipman and Dan Patterson



London: Night at the Movies

Actor and TAU Honorary Doctor Maureen Lipman and TV producer Dan Patterson were among some 200 guests attending the UK Trust's 10th anniversary gala film night at BAFTA. The annual "Night at the Movies" evening is a chance for UK-based supporters of TAU's Steve Tisch School of Film and Television to see the work of some of the school's most promising students and alumni.



Punta del Este: Summer Meeting

The traditional summer meeting of the Argentinean Friends of TAU was held in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, at the Yacht Club. Among the 60 attendees were key members of the Association, TAU governors, and TAU Honorary Doctors Adolfo and Miriam Smolarz and Fred Chaoul. Special guests were former President of Uruguay Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle de Herrera; Senator Julia Pou de Lacalle; and Israeli Ambassador to Uruguay Nina Ben Ami.



From left: Adolfo Smolarz, Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle de Herrera, Senator Julia Pou de Lacalle, Ambassador Nina Ben Ami and Miriam Smolarz



Buenos Aires: Financial forecast

The Argentinean Friends of TAU held its 21st International Economics Symposium with the participation of renowned economic and political analysts. The annual event was attended by over 1,400 diplomats and business and community leaders, including Argentinean Friends President and TAU Honorary Doctor Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch; President of the Central Bank of Argentina Dr. Federico Sturzenegger; Argentine Minister of the Interior Dr. Rogelio Frigerio; and Israeli MK and TAU professor Manuel Trajtenberg.



From left: TAU Governor Dr. Silvio Becher, TAU Representative Herman Richter, Amb. Ilan Sztulman, Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch, Dr. Federico Sturzenegger, and TAU Governor Bension Reiman

Frankfurt: Music for the Soul

The German Friends Association hosted a holiday concert performed by students of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in cooperation with the choir of the local Jewish community. The house was full, the music sublime, and the atmosphere festive.



From left: Daniel Borovitzky; Lilia Pocihari; Head of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Prof. Tomer Lev; President of the German Friends Uwe Becker; Dr. h.c. Josef Buchmann; Dr. h.c. Bareket Buchmann; and Dr. h.c. Ernst Gerhardt





New York: Honoring Michael Steinhardt

The Annual Gala Dinner of American Friends (AFTAU) paid tribute to TAU Honorary Doctor Michael H. Steinhardt, benefactor of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. The event was held at 4 World Trade Center, New York City, and celebrated the imminent opening of the Museum later this year. Event co-chairs were prominent philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Lynn Shusterman, supporters of Birthright Israel along with Mr. Steinhardt. Attending were TAU leaders; AFTAU National Chairman Richard Sincere; AFTAU President and CEO Gail Reiss and members of the Steinhardt family.

From left: Judy and Michael Steinhardt with daughter Sara Berman and grandsons Joshua and Jacob Berman



Bay Area: Shmunis Family Dinner Party

Vlad and Sana Shmunis graciously hosted a beautiful dinner party in their stunning home in honor of TAU President Joseph Klafter. Members of AFTAU, including national AFTAU board members Dr. Murray Zucker, Dr. Nik Wolfson and Aaron Tartakovsky, learned about all the exciting research taking place at TAU. Prof. Klafter praised the Shmunises for having the vision and passion to create the Shmunis Family Anthropological Institute at TAU.

From left: Sana Shmunis, TAU Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad, TAU President Joseph Klafter and Vlad Shmunis

Miami: TAU Gala Rocks

TAU's first international gathering in Miami helped strengthen ties with Miami's international community. Some 250 guests from Israel, USA, Canada, France, Spain, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Panama and other countries attended the gala dinner, held at the St. Regis Bar Harbour Resort. During the event, the Gilinski family was recognized for their visionary support of a chair at TAU dedicated to strengthening Israel's global business leadership. Keynote speaker was former IDF Chief of Staff and TAU alumnus Lt. Gen. (res.) Benny Gantz, who spoke on Israeli national security.



From left: Chantal Aziza, Lt. Gen. (res.) Benny Gantz, Lyne Gelrubin, Danielle Schemoul, Leslie Gelrubin Benitah and Harry Benitah. Seated: David Birene and Janine Solomon.



From left: TAU President Prof. Joseph Klafter, Ambassador Isaac Gilinski and Jaime Gilinski



Hong Kong: Jewish and Chinese Diasporas

The Hong Kong Friends of TAU hosted 120 local and Jewish community guests at the JCC. The guest speaker, TAU Governor Prof. Roger King of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), spoke on his research comparing Jewish and Chinese family businesses. He explained that both communities are close-knit, self-reliant and hard-working, and value education and family.

From left: Hong Kong Friends Board member Avi Nagar; Hong Kong Friends CEO Michal Mor Shtorch; TAU Dean of Engineering Prof. Yossi Rosenwaks; Prof. Roger King; Hong Kong Friends Chair Sharon Ser; Senior Executive, English-speaking Countries, Meir Buber; and Prof. Winnie Peng of HKUST

Madrid: Commemorating Henry Misrahi

A moving dinner was held in memory of the late Henry Misrahi, founder and former President of the Spanish Friends of TAU, at the Villa Magna Hotel in Madrid. It was hosted by Misrahi's wife, Astrid, and family, together with the Spanish Friends of TAU. Attended by 150 people, the event was held in the presence of Israeli Ambassador to Spain Daniel Kutner, TAU leaders, and numerous Spanish Jewish community figures.



From left: TAU Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad; TAU President Joseph Klafter; TAU's Prof. Illana Gozes; Mrs. Astrid Misrahi; Co-President of the Spanish Friends Patricia Nahmad; TAU Governor and member of the Spanish Friends Ben Nemny; Mrs. Elena Ohayon

Madrid: Koplowitz Conference

TAU's Prof. Illana Gozes gave the keynote speech at the 11th Scientific Conference of the Alicia Koplowitz Foundation, held on the topic of perinatal and infant psychiatry. The Foundation is the brainchild of Spanish businesswoman and philanthropist Alicia Koplowitz.



From left: VP for Resource Development Amos Elad; TAU President Joseph Klafter; Mrs. Alicia Koplowitz; Herman Richter; Spanish Friends Co-President Patricia Nahmad; and Marie-Noëlle Erize Tisseau of the Spanish Friends



From left: Australian Friends (Vic.) President Dr. Victor Wayne; Uri Levine; and Vice President (Vic.) Dr. Harry Perelberg

Australia: Innovation & Entrepreneurship

WAZE co-founder and TAU alumnus Uri Levine toured Australia as part of the Australian Friends' "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" series. In Sydney, he spoke at an event hosted by NSW Friends President Andrew Whitten and attended by the elite of Sydney's venture capital and high-tech investor community, as well as by TAU alumni.



In Melbourne, Mr. Levine spoke at a luncheon event attended by 150, hosted by the University of Melbourne and dedicated to AISEP – Australia-Israel Scientific Exchange Program and to a fund for bringing Australian students and researchers to TAU. Guest of Honor was TAU Honorary Doctor Marc Besen, AC, who was recognized for his longstanding support for TAU and the State of Israel.

In Perth, Western Australia, Mr. Levine spoke at a joint TAU-Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce event. In a separate, more recent event in Perth, President Klafter announced the establishment of the Perth, Western Australia Chapter of TAU Friends by Mr. Clive Donner.

Russia: Moscow Mission

TAU took a large group of governors and supporters on a discovery tour of Moscow and St. Petersburg. The three-day Moscow Conference was opened at a gala dinner hosted by TAU benefactor and Honorary Fellow Dr. Boris Mints and his wife, Marina, at the Museum of Russian Impressionism, which houses Dr. Mints's private art collection. Guests enjoyed the finest in Russian art, music, literature and gastronomy. Keynote speaker was writer, film director and TV presenter Avdotia Smirnova, who spoke on Lev Tolstoy and Russian culture. Also attending were Israeli Ambassador to Russia Zvi Heifetz, a TAU alumnus; President of the Russian Jewish Congress Dr. Yuri Kanner; and senior TAU officials.



TAU Honorary Fellow Boris Mints and Ambassador Zvi Heifetz

Quito, Ecuador: Medical Talks

Pediatric endocrinologist Prof. (emer.) Zvi Laron of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine was guest of honor at an event in Quito, hosted by Mrs. Ketty Grun, the new Liaison of the Ecuadorian Friends Association. Some 30 guests attended, including the Israeli Ambassador to Ecuador Edwin Yabo and Consul Udi Avivi, medical professionals and leaders and representatives of the Jewish community.



From left: San Francisco University (SFU) Dean Dr. Santiago Gangotena; Mrs. Ketty Grun; Prof. Zvi Laron; SFU Rector Dr. Carlos Montufar; and researcher Dr. Jaime Guevara



Montreal: Wine & Cheese

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) of Canadian Friends of TAU, Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada region, invited members along with friends and colleagues to an intimate and exclusive wine and cheese tasting with Lior Raz, co-creator and star actor of the successful Israeli TV program, *Fauda*. Close to 75 people attended and had the opportunity to meet Lior.

From left: YPG co-chairs Josh Cummings and Jonathan Bloomfield; CFTAU President, Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada, Claire Dalfen; Lior Raz; Montreal Friends Executive Director Sharon J. Fraenkel

Montreal: Waze journey

Canadian Friends of TAU welcomed Waze co-founder and TAU alumnus Uri Levine to Montreal for a week of events and meetings with Concordia University, McGill University, Federation CJA, CIJA, the Consulate General of Israel and the Montreal Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Levine shared his Waze journey, discussing trends and know-how of the start-up world and sharing advice on entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.



From left: Sharon J. Fraenkel; Uri Levine; and Senior Executive, English-speaking Countries, Meir Buber



Toronto: Focus on Cybersecurity

Canadian Friends of TAU, Ontario and Western Canada region hosted Prof. Eran Socher of TAU's Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering in Toronto, where he spoke to a group of guests at TribalScale's headquarters about the future of cybersecurity.

From left: Executive Director for Ontario and Western Canada Stephen Adler; Prof. Eran Socher; CFTAU National Chair Jeffrey Wagman; and Nathan Disenhouse



Andrée Zana-Murat and Bernard Murat

Paris: Benefit Night

Theatre Edouard VII opened its doors to the French Friends of TAU. Thanks to the dedicated support of Bernard Murat, Director of the theater, and his wife, Andrée Zana-Murat, Director General, Friends members attended the first performance of the play, *Everything You Want*, starring Stéphane de Groodt and Bérénice Béjo. Mr. Jean-Claude Trichet, former President of the European Central Bank and Honorary President of the French Friends, and Gilles Clavreul, France's Inter-Ministerial Delegate in the Fight against anti-Semitism and Racism, were among the guests of honor.

Paris: Debate and Art Sale

TAU Governor Mrs. Odile Cohen and the Madar family hosted the French Friends for a cocktail reception followed by an exceptional presentation by Prof. Frédéric Encel, lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, on the theme "The Republic, the Nation, the Islamists and Us." The lecture and debate were followed by a sale of original pictures of the history of Israel in aid of TAU research and scholarships.



Frédéric Encel



Tel Aviv: Culture Vultures

The Israeli Friends' Academic Business Club in cooperation with TAU's Laura Schwarz-Kipp Center for Hebrew Literature and Culture hosted director, playwright and screenwriter Maor Zaguri for a discussion on literature and media.

From left: Author Dror Mishani, Chairman of the Israeli Friends Amnon Dick, TAU President Joseph Klafter and Maor Zaguri

ISRAEL PRIZES



Prof. (emer.) Arie Vardi received the Israel Prize in Music. Prof. Vardi was recognized for his lifelong contribution to the field of classical music in Israel and for his role as a distinguished teacher and competition jury member. He has served as Head of TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music and Chair of its piano track. He has held master classes and lecture recitals at the Juillard School of Music, Paris Conservatoire, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and London Royal Academy, among others. In Israel, Prof. Vardi is well known to the general public through his lecture-recitals and popular TV program, "Intermezzo with Arik."



Prof. Uri Shaked of TAU's Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering won the Israel Prize in Engineering Research. Prof. Shaked was recognized for his groundbreaking work in "robust control" that is now widely applied in all industries, including Israeli defense manufacturing. Prof. Shaked has made a significant contribution to the expansion of scientific-technological education in Israel. He began teaching at TAU in 1976 and served as Dean of Engineering from 1993 to 1998. He is a life fellow of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) and a fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications.

EMET PRIZES

EMET Prizes for excellence in academic and professional achievements awarded by the Prime Minister's Office were presented to two TAU researchers:



Prof. Zahava Solomon, former Head of TAU's Bob Shapell School of Social Work and an Israel Prize laureate, won the prize for broadening the theoretical and practical understanding of how people cope with trauma. Prof. Solomon was founding head of TAU's Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection; and head of the Israel Multidisciplinary Center for Mass Trauma Research – I-CORE. She has published six books and over 360 articles in leading journals and authored over 70 chapters in various books. Prof. Solomon is a member of numerous committees including the Israel Council for Higher Education and the DSM-IV Advisory Committee to establish criteria for PTSD.



Prof. (emer.) Joseph Bernstein of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Mathematics, an Israel Prize laureate, won the prize for his development of diverse tools in the fields of algebra, analysis and geometry. Born in Moscow, Prof. Bernstein joined the TAU faculty in 1993 and has been a visiting Professor and Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University, and the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University, among others. He has published over 70 papers in the field of representation theory, algebraic geometry and number theory. Prof. Bernstein is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and an Honorary Fellow of the American Mathematical Society.



Prof. (emer.) Malka Margalit won the Israel Prize in Education Research. Prof. Margalit was recognized for her lifelong contribution to the field of learning disabilities and special education in Israel. She joined TAU in 1975 and served as Head of the Jaime and Joan Constantiner School of Education. The author of numerous books and more than 125 articles, she is Associate Editor for Special Issues of the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. Prof. Margalit has served on numerous committees including the national committee that examined the status of students with learning disabilities in Israel (the Margalit Committee), and as Vice President of the International Academy of Research in Learning Disabilities. Prof. Margalit won the Enoch Award for Scientific Contribution to Special Education.



Prof. Nili Cohen of the Buchmann Faculty of Law received the Israel Prize in Law. Prof. Cohen was recognized for her contribution to the study of contracts, torts, restitution, comparative law, and law and literature. Prof. Cohen is President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and is a former Rector and Vice-Rector of TAU. She is the author of numerous books and academic articles and the recipient of top awards including the Douchan Prize; Sussman Prize (twice); Zeltner Prize; TAU Rector's Prize for Excellence in Teaching (three times); and the Minkoff Prize for Excellence in Law. Prof. Cohen holds the Benno Gitter Chair in Comparative Contract Law and is Director of the Beverly and Raymond Sackler Fund for Human Rights in Private Law. She is a member of the American Law Institute and of the Committee for the Codification of Israeli Law.



Prof. Sharon Hannes has been appointed Dean of the Buchmann Faculty of Law, replacing Prof. Ron Harris. A graduate of TAU, Prof. Hannes is a recognized expert in the fields of corporate law and policy, corporate finance, remuneration and incentive pay, corporate control contests, securities regulation, and law and economics. He has served as Vice Dean of the Buchmann Faculty and as Head of the Cegla Center for Interdisciplinary Research of the Law. Prof. Hannes has published numerous articles in academic journals and is Editor-in-chief of *Theoretical Inquiries in Law*. He has been a visiting professor at Columbia Law School, Georgetown Law School and Northwestern University School of Law.



Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin was appointed Head of the Stanley Steyer School of Health Professions, replacing Prof. Nili Tabak. Prof. Kishon-Rabin previously served as Head of the Department of Communication Disorders for nine years. She has published over 70 peer-reviewed articles and several book chapters in the areas of speech science, psychoacoustics, and the effects of hearing loss and use of cochlear implants on the development of speech perception and production in infants, children and adults. Prof. Kishon-Rabin established the BA Program in Communication Disorders for ultra-orthodox women, which she has headed for 10 years.



Prof. Idit Weiss-Gal was appointed Head of the Bob Shapell School of Social Work, replacing Prof. Bilha Davidson-Arad. Prof. Weiss-Gal completed her BA, MSW and PhD at TAU and joined the faculty in 1989. She has been a member of the Committee for the Reform of Local

Social Services of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services; and of the social welfare team at the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies. Prof. Weiss-Gal is the author of 67 articles in scientific journals and editor of four books. Her research focuses on the policy involvement of social workers, the social work profession, and critical perspectives in social work.

Appointments: **Prof. Gil Markovich**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Alexander and Klara Stransky Chair in the Chemistry of Advanced Materials • **Prof. Doron Shabat**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Emerico Letay Chair in Chemical Processes • **Prof. Lev Vaidman**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Alex Maguy Glass Chair in Physics of Complex Systems • **Prof. Ervin Weiss**, Medicine, incumbent of the Ed and Herb Stein Chair in Oral Pathology • **Prof. Adit Ben-Baruch**, Life Sciences, Incumbent of the Myriam Lebach Chair in Molecular Neurodegeneration • **Prof. Eli Amir**, Management, incumbent of the Max and Steffi Perlman Chair in Financial Economics • **Prof. Amiel Sternberg**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Yuval Ne'eman Chair in Theoretical Physics • **Prof. Shmuel Carmeli**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Nathan Cummings Chair for Natural Products in Medicine • **Prof. Alexander Palevski**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Carol and Melvin S. Taub Chair in Applied Physics • **Prof. Refael Hassin**, Exact

Honors: 2016 ACM Fellow; 2016 Edsger W. Dijkstra Prize in Distributed Computing, **Prof. Noga Alon**, Exact Sciences • American Chemical Society Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering (PMSE) Young Investigator, **Dr. Roey Amir**, Exact Sciences • 2017 Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research of the Wolf Foundation, **Dr. Shiri Chechik**, Exact Sciences • CiE Best Paper Award of the 12th International Conference on Comparability in Europe, **Prof. Nachum Dershowitz**, Exact Sciences • Humboldt Research Award, **Prof. Menachem Fisch**, Humanities • 2017 Fellow of the European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering Sciences, **Prof. Amit Gefen**, Engineering • 2016 RARE Champion of Hope — Science International Prize by Global Genes, **Prof. Illana Gozes**, Medicine • INTEL Award, **Prof. Hayit Greenspan**, Engineering • Member of the Israel Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, **Dr. Joseph Sefy Hendler**, Arts • Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, **Prof. Jeff Hausdorff**, Medicine • Inaugural Prize of the Israel Council of Higher Education, **Prof. Joshua Jortner**, Exact Sciences • 58th Annual Harvard Business Review McKinsey Award, **Prof. Alexandra Kalev**, Social Sciences • 2017 Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture of the British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG), **Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin**, Medicine • American Mathematical Society (AMS) Fellow, **Prof. Michael Krivelevich**, Exact Sciences • Order of the Rising Sun of Japan, **Mr. Arie Kutz**, Humanities • Honorary Fellow of the Technion, **Prof. Yossi Leshem**, Life Sciences • Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, **Prof. Bilha (Billie) Melman**, Humanities • 2016 Gold Medal of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, **Prof. Gil Navon**, Exact Sciences • Honorary Doctorate from Ben-Gurion University, **Prof. Nathan Nelson**, Life Sciences • Member of the Israel

Sciences, incumbent of the Chair of Operations Research • **Prof. Michael Sodin**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Chair in Analysis • **Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron**, Engineering, incumbent of the Kranzberg Chair in Signal Processing • **Prof. Rami Haj-Ali**, Engineering, incumbent of the Nathan Cummings Chair of Mechanics • **Prof. Chaim Pick**, Medicine, incumbent of the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Chair in the Biology of Addictive Diseases • **Prof. Jiska Cohen-Mansfield**, Medicine, incumbent of the Igor Ornstein Chair for the Study of Geriatrics • **Prof. Nathan Dascal**, Medicine, incumbent of the Morris and Helen Mauerberger Chair in Neuropharmacology • **Prof. Karen B. Avraham**, Medicine, incumbent of the Drs. Sara and Felix Dumont Chair for Research of Hearing Disorders • **Prof. Raoul Orvieto**, Medicine, incumbent of the Tarnesby-Tarnowski Chair for Family Planning and Fertility Regulation

Academy of Sciences and Humanities; 2016 Adelis Award for Brain Research, **Dr. Yuval Nir**, Medicine • Life and Environment Green Globe Lifetime Achievement Award, **Prof. Dan Rabinowitz**, Social Sciences • Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, **Prof. Gideon Rechavi**, Medicine • Honorary Doctorate, San Martin University, Argentina, **Prof. Raanan Rein**, Humanities • Microsoft Research Outstanding Collaborator Award, **Prof. Mooly Sagiv**, Exact Sciences • George Polya Prize of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, **Dr. Wojciech Samotij**, Exact Sciences • 2016 RECOMB “Test of Time Award,” **Prof. Ron Shamir**, Exact Sciences • 2017 Krill Prize of the Wolf Foundation, **Dr. Eilon Shani**, Life Sciences • 2016 RECOMB “Test of Time Award,” **Prof. Roded Sharan**, Exact Sciences • Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy prize, **Dr. Assaf Sharon**, Humanities • 2016 Azrieli Faculty Fellowship, **Dr. Amit Sitt**, Exact Sciences • MetLife Foundation Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer’s Disease, **Prof. Inna Slutsky**, Medicine • 2017 Yrjö Jahnsson Award in Economics, **Prof. Ran Spiegel**, Social Sciences • Shewhart Medal of the American Society of Quality (ASQ), **Prof. David Steinberg**, Exact Sciences • Member of the Israel Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, **Prof. Yael Sternhell**, Humanities • 2017 Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Fellow; SIAM Optimization Prize, **Prof. Marc Teboulle**, Exact Sciences • 2016 Juludan Research Prize, **Prof. Tamir Tuller**, Engineering • Humboldt Research Award, **Prof. Shulamit Volkov**, Humanities • 2016 Fellow of the International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB), **Prof. Haim Wolfson**, Exact Sciences • Israeli Society for Ecology and Environmental Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award, **Prof. (emer.) Amotz Zahavi**, Life Sciences

TAU made headlines this year when it announced a revolutionary new admissions system that will make it more accessible to all segments of the population.

The new system will redress a built-in disparity in Israel's standardized university entrance exams. These tend to favor well-off students from the center of the country who generally can afford costly preparatory courses that boost results, while their counterparts in Israel's less privileged areas cannot.

Until now, all universities in Israel have admitted students based on a



TAU Launches Groundbreaking Admissions System

combination of their entrance exam results and high school matriculation grades. The new system will allow applicants to receive bonus points on their overall admissions score if they receive 85% or higher on one or two online courses offered by TAU. Furthermore, if they receive 85% or higher on three TAU online courses, then these grades will entirely replace the entrance exam score when they are considered for admission.

Israel's Education Minister Naftali Bennett applauded the new admissions criteria: "I welcome TAU's initiative, which realizes two of our long-term goals: closing social gaps and propelling education into the 21st century."

TAU has been a leader among Israeli universities in its development of massive open online courses (MOOCs), a trend that is gaining momentum around the world. TAU Online, the University's Learning Innovation Center, currently offers nine online courses via Coursera and other MOOC platforms, as well as learning communities and resources for participants to maximize their pedagogical experience.

Similarly, TAU Online offers a MOOC-based learning program for high-school pupils throughout Israel to gain academic credit at TAU. To facilitate this, TAU partners with high-school teachers and municipal education departments to integrate the online courses into the classroom. "Because the entire program is conducted online, the need for physical proximity to the University is eliminated," said Yuval Shraibman, Director of TAU Online. "Thus, we offer potential accessibility to every pupil and school in Israel."

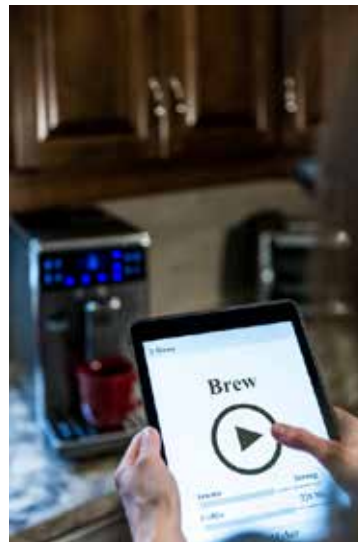
TAU Partners with International Industry Giants on IoT

General Electric Ventures, Microsoft Ventures, Qualcomm, Tata and the Chinese company HNA EcoTech, in cooperation with TAU and Pitango Venture Capital, have established an investment vehicle for early-stage Israeli projects in the Internet of Things (IoT) field. Entitled "Israel IoT Innovations – i3 Equity Partners," the initiative was announced with an investment of \$20 million.

With headquarters on the TAU campus, i3 is headed by Managing Partners Noga Kap and Eran Wagner, both successful Israeli entrepreneurs and investors with proven track records and extensive experience in early-stage investments. "i3 will be the first stop for Israeli IoT-related

startups looking to access the main global players in this burgeoning arena," said Noga Kap. "We will be targeting entrepreneurs who are adapting to changing markets and creating products that matter, and will provide them with the resources they need to build successful startups."

i3 will provide three to five high-potential seed and pre-seed startups annually with a financial investment of up to \$1 million each. Selected companies will benefit from technology,

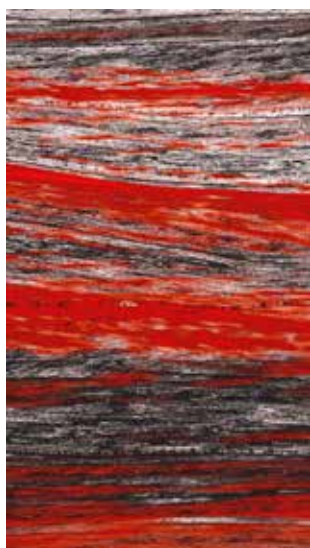


mentoring, business development and office space at TAU, as well as the support of the multinational corporations in issues such as tech validation, later-stage investments and, ultimately, the purchase of mature technologies and their distribution in high-potential markets.

Shlomo Nimrodi, who heads TAU's tech transfer company, Ramot, and chairs i3 Equity Partners, said, "This one-of-a-kind collaboration is a testament to the trust of multinational corporations in the ability of Israeli entrepreneurs to invent the next breakthrough technologies that will move the world."

Women and gender in Israeli Arts

The Department of Art History, Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts, together with the Association for Women's Art and Gender Research in Israel, held a conference on women and gender issues in Israeli arts, the first of its kind in the country. The event, which was supported by TAU's Tel Aviv Israeli Art Foundation (TIAF), convened



▲
Untitled 18
(Panorama),
2015 by
TAU Honorary
Doctor Michal
Rovner

scholars from all over Israel for discussions on the relationship between gender and migration, nationality, religion, sexuality and other fields – as expressed in all the arts media, including theater and cinema. The conference addressed new research questions that could form the foundation for future studies and encourage scholars to examine Israeli art from a gender perspective.

The TIAF, supported by donations from art lovers and collectors, aims to nurture a new generation of young scholars specializing in Israeli art. It advances specialized academic courses, cutting-edge scholarship, curatorial projects, visits by international experts and public activities.



from left: TAU President Joseph Klaffer; Israeli President Reuven Rivlin; Prof. Ved Parkash, Chairman, University Grants Committee (in background); Prof. Ganapati Dadasaheb Yadav, Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai; Dr. Smita Lee, Registrar of ICT Mumbai; and Prof. PR Vavia, Dean, Academic Affairs, ICT Mumbai

TAU President Takes Part in Israel State Visit to India

Prof. Joseph Klaffer accompanied President of Israel Reuven Rivlin on a state visit to India dedicated to furthering bilateral academic ties. Prof. Klaffer was selected to speak on behalf of Israeli university heads at the Israel-India Academic Forum held in Delhi. Also attending were top Israeli and Indian university leaders who explored cooperation between the two countries in water, environment, clean energy, agriculture and cyber security.

Prof. Klaffer noted that the India-Israel Forum, sponsored by TAU and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has helped expand joint research, student exchange and industry collaboration by bringing together hundreds of Indian and Israeli business figures, entrepreneurs, top government officials and academic experts.

During the visit, TAU signed MoUs with the Indian Institute of Chemical Technologies and the S.P. JIMR Institute of Management & Research.



From left: Austrian Ambassador Martin Weiss; TAU Vice President Raanan Rein; and CFO of Austrian Railway Corporation, ÖBB-Holding AG Josef Halbmayr

An exhibition sponsored by Austrian Railways ÖBB entitled, "The Suppressed Years – Railway and National Socialism in Austria between 1938 and 1945," was displayed in the Sarita and Noel Werthein Hall of the Elias Sourasky Central Library. The exhibition addresses for the first time the role of the Austrian railways in the Nazi era. It looked at the period when the ÖBB was part of the Deutsche

Austrian Railways and the Nazis

Reichsbahn and the railway was one of the main pillars of the Nazi state. The exhibition was held under the auspices of the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Austrian Cultural Forum Tel Aviv and TAU and ÖBB-Holding AG. Among the speakers were Austrian Ambassador Martin Weiss, TAU Vice President Prof. Raanan Rein, representatives of Austrian Railways, and Alisa Tennenbaum, a contemporary witness born in 1929 who escaped to England in 1939 with the Kindertransport. The exhibition was curated by Mili Segal from Vienna.



China-Israel Innovation Forum Launched

The first China Israel Innovation Forum (CIIF) was held in Beijing, a collaboration of TAU, Tsinghua University and the Morningside Group, Hong Kong. The goal of the Forum is to forge connections between the academic, industrial and government leadership of China and Israel.

The Forum builds on TAU's strong presence in China, which includes agreements with 30 leading universities for joint research and exchange. TAU's XIN Center with Tsinghua University has already resulted in promising innovations and research in the fields of nanoscience and nanomedicine.

TAU President Joseph Klafter, who co-chaired the Forum together with President of Tsinghua University, Prof. Qiu Yong, and co-founder of Morningside and Chairman of Hang Lung Properties, said at the event, Mr. Ronnie Chan, "We are leveraging our Tsinghua collaboration, Ronnie Chan's business prominence and our own alumni in China to create new opportunities for cooperation on a binational level."

Chan noted, "This platform offers an opportunity to harness the power of China's relationship with Israel to enrich humanity as a whole."

In honor of their leadership roles, Prof. Qiu Yong was recognized with a 2017 TAU honorary doctorate and Mr. Chan with the same honor in 2014.

The keynote address was delivered by Dan Gillerman, former Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations. Matan Vilnai, former Israeli Ambassador to China, delivered opening remarks.

The Forum featured panel discussions moderated by Dr. Yehoshua Gleitman, former Chief Scientist of Israel and Honorary Consul General of Singapore in Israel; Major General (ret.) Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel, Director of TAU's Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center; Danny Yamin, Vice President of Microsoft Enterprise Strategy in China and Former Chairman of the Technion Executive Council; and Shlomo Nimrodi, CEO of Ramot at Tel Aviv University. Other speakers included TAU Rector, Prof. Yaron Oz; Vice Dean for Engineering,



From left: Prof. Yuval Shavitt, Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center; Mr. Richard Liu, Co-founder of the Morningside China TMT Fund; Prof. Xing Li, Department of Electronic Engineering, Tsinghua University; Mr. Vincent Goh, Vice President of Sales, Asia Pacific & Japan at CyberArk; and Major General (ret.) Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel, Director of the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center

Prof. David Mendlovic; and Director of the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Prof. Uzi Rabi.

"It's incredible to see this idea coming to fruition," said Orly Fromer, General Director of the Forum and Director of the new TAU-China Alumni Association. "Four years ago we were just beginning our relationship with China and starting to build up resources and networking. We recognized the magnitude of what we could achieve together and the infinite potential for educational and business collaboration between China and Israel. The Forum is about realizing this potential," she said.

TAU-China Alumni Association Unveiled

Capitalizing on the 2,500 Chinese students and executives who have already attended training programs on the TAU campus, the new TAU-China Alumni Association was launched at Peking University. The Association is being established under the aegis of PAAP – the Post-EMBA (Executive MBA) Alumni Association of Peking University.

PAAP will provide free office space and operational manpower, organize tours of TAU for Chinese entrepreneurs, and promote links between alumni.

The collaboration will enable leading alumni in China to receive the latest information on the business and technology arena in Israel, learn about scientific discoveries, link up with the right laboratories in Israel for joint R&D, hear about technology transfer opportunities, and network with Israeli entrepreneurs, investors and companies. The alumni association will also open opportunities for joint teaching programs and faculty and student exchange.

Attending the launch were Mr. Cui Wei, Founder of the Post-EMBA Program at Peking University; Mr. Ye Xiao Wen, Twelfth National Committee Member and Deputy Director of the Cultural and Historical Committee; and Ms. Orly Fromer, General Director of the TAU-China Alumni Association.

Cooperation Agreements

Agreements were signed between TAU and some 16 research institutions this last year, including an MoU between TAU and Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, for a joint research center in data science, signed by Victoria Minister for Small



Potsdam University President Prof. Oliver Günther and Prof. Raanan Rein

Business, Innovation and Trade, Philip Dalidakis MP; a renewed agreement for research collaboration in cognitive science and post-doctoral

exchange between TAU and Potsdam University, Germany, signed by Potsdam University President Prof. Oliver Günther; and a letter of intent for the creation of a platform for TAU education and research projects with the Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina (UNSAM), signed by INSAM Rector Dr. Carlos Ruta.



Russian Internet Giant Visits

Dr. Arkady Volozh, founder and CEO of YANDEX, Russia's largest internet search engine, visited TAU and met with President Joseph



Klafter, Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad and Senior Executive for Regional Development and Public Affairs Dr. Haim Ben

Yakov. Dr. Volozh heard presentations on human face recognition and deep learning by researchers from the Blavatnik School of Computer Science and Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center.

 Dr. Arkady Volozh

Top rankings

Once more TAU leads the ranking charts in the entrepreneurial sector:

- TAU is a Reuters "Top 100 Innovation University" (2016).
- TAU ranks 8th in the world for graduates who established "unicorn" companies worth \$1 billion or more (Sage 2017), the only non-US university to make the top 10. Unicorns founded by TAU alumni include ForeScout, a computer security firm, and ironSource, which makes tools for app developers.
- For the second time, PitchBook has ranked TAU 9th globally for producing VC-backed founders of companies in a survey of over 13,000 entrepreneurs worldwide. TAU is the only non-US university to make the top 10 cut.
- In a survey by Geektime.com, the average Israeli entrepreneur is a 36 year-old graduate of Tel Aviv University. Of the 654 startup founders questioned, 25% studied at TAU, more than at any other Israeli university or college.
- For the third year running, TAU's Collier School of Management was awarded the "5 Palmes of Excellence" by Eduuniversal Rankings.

Prof. Klafter Appointed Chairman of Committee of University Heads

TAU President Joseph Klafter has been appointed Chairman of the Committee of University Heads of Israel (known as VERA), replacing Prof. Peretz Lavie, President of the Technion—Institute of Technology. Prof. Klafter, an internationally renowned scientist in the field of chemistry, has served as President of TAU since October 2009.

VERA is a voluntary body composed of the presidents, rectors and directors-general of Israel's seven research universities – Tel Aviv University, Technion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Weizmann Institute and Bar-Ilan University. Its objective is to represent the universities' common interest in the most effective way vis-à-vis government decision-makers, and to promote and develop scientific research and higher education in Israel.



The Rosenberg Files

The German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection Heiko Mass visited TAU and took part in an event entitled, "The Rosenberg Files – The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Nazi Past," in the presence of Israeli Justice Minister and TAU alumna Ayelet Shaked; TAU Honorary Doctor Norbert Cymbalista and his wife, Paulette; and three justices of the Israeli Supreme Court.

The event examined the Ministry's dealing with the Nazi legal system following World War II. Held in the Cym-

balista Jewish Heritage Center, it was moderated by Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at TAU and Chief Historian of Yad Vashem. Opening greetings were given by TAU Vice President Raanan Rein in addition to talks by Prof. Christoph Safferling (Erlangen-Nuremberg); Prof. Manfred Görtemaker (Potsdam); and Prof. Ron Harris, then Dean of the Buchmann Faculty of Law.



Heiko Mass


prizes

TAU Debating Win

TAU's Debating Club won first place at the recent 2017 World Debating Championships held in The Hague, Netherlands. TAU students Tom Manor and Noam Dahan won in the category of "English as a second language." Club coach Sela Nevo, a TAU master's student in computer science and a former champion debater, said, "This is the third time that our club has won the championship. We are considered to be strong in Israel and we also place among the top international clubs in the overall rankings."




TAU debating champions Tom Manor (left) and Noam Dahan (right) with TAU President Joseph Klafter



Prof. Raanan Rein Receives Honor from King of Spain

TAU Vice President Raanan Rein was awarded the honorary medal of the Order of Civil Merit of the King of Spain, Felipe VI, by the Spanish ambassador to Israel, Mr. Fernando Carderera. Prof. Rein was recognized for his contribution to promoting academic and cultural ties between Israel and Spain, to historiographical studies of Spain in the 20th century,

and to training generations of young researchers of Spanish history. Prof. Rein is a member of the academic boards of numerous Spanish journals of history and politics, and the incumbent of the only Chair for Israel Studies in Spain, at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid. He is also incumbent of the Elias Sourasky Chair for Ibero-American and Spanish Studies at TAU and the author and editor of over 30 books and many dozens of articles on topics related to Spanish and Argentinean history.


Spanish Ambassador Fernando Carderera with TAU Vice President Raanan Rein

In an Historic First, TAU Student Named Rhodes Scholar

TAU graduate Maayan Roichman will join a set of illustrious names, including former US President Bill Clinton, when she becomes a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University this fall, one of only two Israelis to receive the award. The highly prestigious scholarship, established at Oxford University in 1903, selects creative young leaders with a commitment to serving others. This year is the first time Israelis have been included.

A recent graduate of TAU's Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for

Outstanding Students, Maayan will pursue her PhD in anthropology, researching education and multiculturalism. "Oxford University is one of the places where the field of anthropology developed, and the professors have a long history of conducting research in the field. I believe that the caliber of the professors and sharing ideas with the other scholars will help me develop my research," says Roichman.




Maayan Roichman

community

Strengthening Civic Leadership

Recognizing the need for its students to influence and shape the future of Israeli society, TAU has established "TAU Impact," a groundbreaking academic program designed to embed social engagement into the teaching curriculum. The program promotes academic excellence and

social activism through accredited "TAU Impact" courses that combine theory-based knowledge with volunteer activities. Students and academic staff in the program collaborate with NGOs, government bodies and their own personal communities.

"Graduates of the program will enter the workforce understanding the importance of being active agents of change in areas such as equality, social and economic justice, democracy, human rights and the environment," says Dean of Students Prof. Tova Most. She envisions transforming the program into a curricular

requirement for all undergraduates enrolled at TAU. The program is operated by the Unit for Social Involvement, Ruth and Allen Ziegler Student Services Division.



Tel Aviv University Lay Leadership Worldwide

ARGENTINA

Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch
President
Argentinean Friends of Tel Aviv University

AUSTRALIA

Dr. Victor Wayne
President
Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University (Victoria)

Andrew Whitten
President

Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University (New South Wales)

AUSTRIA

Dr. Hannes Androsch
President
Austrian Friends of Tel Aviv University

BRAZIL

Eduardo Wurzmann
President, São Paulo
Brazilian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Lea Klabin
President, Rio de Janeiro
Brazilian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Dr. Mario Gurvitz Cardoni
President, Porto Alegre
Brazilian Friends of Tel Aviv University

CANADA

Jeff Wagman
National President
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
Chair, Ontario and Western Canada

Judge Barbara Seal, CM
National Chair
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Claire Dalfen
President
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada

ECUADOR

Ketty Grun
Liaison
Ecuadorian Friends of Tel Aviv University

FRANCE

Prof. François Heilbronn
President
French Friends of Tel Aviv University (AFAUTA)

GERMANY

Uwe Becker
President
German Friends of Tel Aviv University

HONG KONG

Sharon Ser
Chairperson
Hong Kong Friends of Tel Aviv University

INDIA

Aaron Solomon
President
Indian Friends of Tel Aviv University

ISRAEL

Amnon Dick
Chairman
Israeli Friends of Tel Aviv University

KAZAKHSTAN

Dr. Alexander Machkevitch
President
Kazakhstani Friends of Tel Aviv University

MEXICO

Jaime Murow Troice
President
Mexican Friends of Tel Aviv University

NETHERLANDS

David Jowell
President
Dutch Friends of Tel Aviv University

NORWAY

Herman Kahan
Chairman
Norwegian Friends of Tel Aviv University

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Millie Bettsak
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PERU

Roberto Lerner
Liaison
Peruvian Friends of Tel Aviv University

RUSSIA

Viktor Vekselberg
President
Russian Friends of Tel Aviv University

SOUTH AFRICA

Jonathan Osrin
Chairman
South African Friends of Tel Aviv University

SPAIN

Isaac Querub
Patricia Nahmad
Co-Presidents
Spanish Friends of Tel Aviv University

SWEDEN

Peter Seideman
Swedish Friends of Tel Aviv University

SWITZERLAND

Patrick Loeb-Meyer
President
Swiss Friends of Tel Aviv University

UK

Richard Anton
Chairman
The Tel Aviv University Trust

Glen Watson

Chairman, Scottish Group
The Tel Aviv University Trust

URUGUAY

Bernardo Faincaig
President
Uruguayan Friends of Tel Aviv University

USA

Richard Sincere
National Chairman
American Friends of Tel Aviv University