

# friends globally 2014



From left:  
TAU President  
Joseph Klafter,  
Chinese Vice  
Premier Liu  
Yandong and  
Tsinghua  
University  
President Prof.  
Chen Jining



INSIDE:

PORTER SCHOOL BUILDING

HON DOCS 2014

LOKEY CENTER

## TAU-Tsinghua Research Center

In a milestone for Sino-Israeli academic and cultural relations, TAU and the top-ranked Tsinghua University in Beijing signed an agreement to establish a joint innovation center in the presence of the Chinese Vice Premier

A research center to be established on the campuses of Tel Aviv University and Tsinghua University, the “MIT of China,” was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China, and a senior Chinese government delegation. Called XIN (“new” in Chinese), the center

will train a new generation of scientific innovators from both countries to be known as XIN Fellows. The partner institutions have committed to jointly investing \$300 million over the coming years, and to focus on priority areas for both countries such as nanotechnology, renewable energy and biotech.

TAU President Joseph Klafter expressed his immense pride in “officially launching the largest and most ambitious joint research and teaching project ever to be established between Israel and China.”

Tsinghua President Prof. Chen Jining, who was joined by a large group of colleagues from Tsinghua, said that in a world where “higher education across the globe is changing rapidly, universities are exerting new impact on the economy and society.” As such, “the XIN Center will tackle the global challenges of environment, energy and social development, break the barriers between the traditional disciplines and create new models of innovation.”

In a congratulatory letter sent directly to the signing ceremony by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he wrote that “the XIN Center’s work will help ensure that the peoples of both countries will enjoy a more productive, healthy and prosperous future.”

## TAU PRESIDENT KLAFTER REELECTED

With a bountiful show of hands, Tel Aviv University’s Board of Governors ratified the election of Prof. Joseph Klafter, TAU President, for an additional five-year term. The Chairman of the TAU Executive Council, Dr. Giora Yaron, said before the vote: “The Search Committee unanimously voted to recommend Prof. Klafter for a second term; the TAU Senate overwhelmingly supported the resolution; and the Executive Council unanimously approved the Senate’s recommendation.” Prof. Klafter said that he would “work hard to take the University to greater heights and farther distances” and he thanked the University governors, supporters, leaders and managers for their commitment and caring in helping him succeed in his job.



### Netanyahu Awards Innovation Prize at TAU

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented the fourth annual Prime Minister’s Initiatives and Innovation Prize to Dafna Lifschitz, CEO of Appleseeds Academy, a grassroots organization that provides technological training to disadvantaged populations. The award ceremony took place in the Kuky and Sergio Grosskopf Family Foyer of the Miriam and Adolfo Smolarz Auditorium.

THE LORRY I. LOKEY GRADUATE CENTER AT THE  
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

# Laying the Cornerstone for Better Business Education



TAU President Joseph Klafter (left) with Lorry I. Lokey at the cornerstone laying ceremony

## Lorry I. Lokey

“Those of us giving grants are really betting on the kids of the future — we want them to do better than we did. Through Tel Aviv University, we are just getting better and better.”

At a sweeping building site on the university’s award-winning campus, the cornerstone for the new Lorry I. Lokey Graduate Center at the TAU Faculty of Management was laid during TAU’s recent International Board of Governors Meeting. Lokey, the noted San Francisco philanthropist and founder of *Business Wire*, wielded a spade to applause from a distinguished gathering at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The new 53,820-square-foot center will house five research institutions, a state-of-the-art, 300-seat auditorium fully equipped with media and presentation systems, and offices for all graduate programs, 20 tenure-track faculty and 30 administrative staff, as well as lounge and refreshment areas. The center will bring about a major transformation for the business school, currently housed in a 75,000-square-foot building serving 1,200 undergraduates, 2,160 master’s students, and 70 Ph.D. candidates.

Guests at the ceremony included Chairman of TAU’s Executive Council Dr. Giora Yaron, TAU President Joseph Klafter, outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Management Prof. Asher Tishler,

incoming Dean Prof. Moshe Zviran, and Mr. Lokey’s partner Joanne E. Harrington. A large contingent of American Friends of Tel Aviv University included National Chairman Jon Gurkoff and President & CEO Gail Reiss.

## A champion of education

Lokey’s charitable nature is in his DNA: even during the Depression, his parents continued to give to organizations they supported. By his late 20s, Lokey already was giving away 10 percent of his income, starting with gifts to his local temple and to Stanford University, from which he holds a B.A. in Journalism. To this day, he still donates to the elementary school he attended.

“It is a privilege to give,” says Lokey. He has donated \$702.5 million throughout his lifetime — virtually 98 percent of his net worth — with the bulk of it going to educational institutions. “Without people giving grants, we’d never make it. I’m just thrilled to be a part of it all.”

During his visit to Israel, Lokey escorted three University of Oregon research professors to Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, and Technion Institute in Haifa. They met peer-level scientists at each institution.

## Impact on Israel

At the ceremony, President Klafter thanked Lokey both for his benevolence and his singular worldview. “Lorry, you are a great philanthropist who has given substantially of your wealth for the benefit of others. It is a great vote of confidence in our excellence that you have chosen to make Tel Aviv University a recipient. We are deeply thankful to have you as a partner in this important project, through which your love of Israel will gain concrete shape and form, and will have a lasting impact on the state’s economy and society.”

Artist’s rendering of the planned Lorry I. Lokey Graduate Center





Dr. Ben A. Williamowsky  
with Head of the Dental  
School Prof. Ilana Eli



### Dr. Ben A. Williamowsky

“It has been a long journey... I love the people who have stuck with us all this time, and I keep President Joseph Klafter’s words close to my heart: ‘The dental school is open, and it will stay open forever.’”

A dream became reality when the Rothstein-Williamowsky Post-Graduate Clinics were inaugurated at TAU’s Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine. The ceremony marked the official opening of the new Advanced Care Clinic, and a Special Care Clinic is expected to break ground by the end of the year. Together, they will provide a much-needed, quality care center for disadvantaged and disabled patients in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, and provide sophisticated training for tomorrow’s dental professionals.

The \$2.7 million campaign to fund the clinics is a joint initiative of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity and American

## Rothstein-Williamowsky Post-Graduate Clinics Inaugurated

Friends of Tel Aviv University, and is co-chaired by Dr. Marc Rothman, chairman of the Alpha Omega Foundation and a member of AFTAU’s Board of Directors, and Steven William Kess, Vice President for Global Professional Relations at Henry Schein, Inc. The clinics are named in honor of two leaders who have long championed TAU’s dental school — the late Ralph Rothstein and Dr. Ben A. Williamowsky, a member of AFTAU’s Board of Directors and TAU’s Board of Governors, and former International President of Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity.

## Sincere Family Gift Boosts Middle Eastern Studies

The Debra and Richard Sincere Tel Aviv University Project in Middle Eastern Studies was dedicated during TAU’s Board of Governors Meeting. The innovative project will award substantial scholarships to outstanding doctoral students at one of the world’s top-rated think tanks, TAU’s Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies.

The Sincere gift will also support joint academic activities with the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, including research seminars and conferences, faculty and student exchange and, in the future, co-taught online courses. Mr. Sincere, an alumnus of both institutions and member of TAU’s Board of Governors and of TAU’s Business School Board of Directors, is also Secretary of American Friends of TAU’s Board of Directors.



From left:  
Richard Sincere,  
Vice President  
Raanan Rein and  
Prof. Uzi Rabi,  
Head of TAU’s  
Moshe Dayan  
Center for Middle  
Eastern and  
African Studies

### Richard Sincere

“Tel Aviv University and University of Wisconsin, Madison, have two of the best history departments in the world... We are dedicated to getting scholars from both sides together.”

### Dr. Ernest Baden

“I have no family and immortality is, in my opinion, a religious concept. I hope these funds will contribute to a better society.”



Dean of Medicine Yoseph Mekori (left) with Dr. Ernest Baden

## Dr. Ernest Baden Advances Medical Research at TAU

Distinguished intellectual and oral pathologist Dr. Ernest Baden was honored for his generosity to advanced medical research at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine. The Florida resident will establish the Dr. Ernest Baden Institute of Head and Neck Pathology, as well as the Dr. Jane R. Baden Endowed Research Fund for Molecular Research to Elucidate the Etiology and Pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s Disease in honor of his mother, who died of the disease. His gift will benefit both the School of Medicine and TAU’s Sagol School of Neuroscience.

Addressing the guests, Sackler Faculty of Medicine Dean Yoseph Mekori said, “As an expert pathologist, Dr. Baden was quite precise about where the resources should go. I want to convey my deep gratitude for his very important contribution to Alzheimer’s research, and to the study of head and neck pathology.” Dr. Baden then spoke of his experiences fleeing from the Nazis during WWII — across borders from his native Germany to France, and ultimately to Algeria where he and his family were interned at a French concentration camp, before pursuing a career in dentistry and oral medicine.

## Major Prizes 2014

### Architecture Award Honors the Late Michael Gelrubin

The first Michael Gelrubin Award in Architecture was presented during the 2014 Board of Governors to three students at the David Azrieli School of Architecture in recognition of their design for a hotel in Paris. The award, which commemorates the late Michael Gelrubin, was donated by his son, Samuel, together with business associate Brice Errera, both of France. The aim of the prize is to encourage creativity among architecture students at the University. The hotel project is being developed by Samuel Gelrubin and Errera in collaboration with Philippe Maidenber,



From left: Dr. Eran Neuman, Head of the David Azrieli School of Architecture, Philippe Maidenber, Lia Ben Rosh, Li Yarden, Talia Levi and Samuel Gelrubin

one of France's most renowned hotel designers. Maidenber donated funds toward the students' training and also judged the designs.

### Sieratzki Prize Rewards Neuroscientists

The 2014 Sieratzki Prize for Advances in Neuroscience was awarded to Dr. Segev Barak, TAU School of Psychological Sciences and Sagol School of Neuroscience; Dr. Michael Yartsev, Princeton Neuroscience Institute; and Dr. Yaniv Ziv of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Four prizes for the best publication by TAU PhD students were also given. Prize founder Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki said at the ceremony, "I am extremely excited about this year's submissions. Each year it is an enriching



From left: Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki; Prof. Illana Gozes, Director, Adams Super Center for Brain Studies; Dr. Segev Barak; Prof. Uri Ashery, Head, Sagol School of Neuroscience; and Prof. Nir Giladi, incumbent of the Heinrich (Yehezkel) Sieratzki Chair for Neurology

experience to see the high quality research in neuroscience. Israel is such a young country with amazing researchers."

### Ramnceanu Prize Honors Waze Founders

The Hugo Ramnceanu Prize in Economics for 2014 was presented to the co-founders and developers of Waze Ltd., the world's largest community-based traffic and navigation application. High-tech wizards Uri Levine and Ehud Shabtai, both TAU alumni, together with Noam Bardin and Amir Shinhar, were recognized for their business acumen, which led to the integration of Waze Ltd. into the Google group of companies, and for serving as role models for new generations of Israeli entrepreneurs. The prize is awarded annually to distinguished personalities in the Israeli business world. Also attending were Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel, Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors; TAU President Joseph Klafter; Hugo Ramnceanu's children, Dr. Monique Barel and



From left: Waze founders Uri Levine, Noam Bardin, Ehud Shabtai and Amir Shinhar

Gerard Ramnceanu; and Marc Haddad, member of the French Friends and TAU Governor. In his response, Waze CEO Noam Bardin said, "Tel Aviv University's top tier computer science graduates were critical to building this company."



## 2014 Dan David



For the 13<sup>th</sup> year running, the Dan David Prize recognized individuals whose achievements have had an outstanding scientific, cultural or social impact on our world.

Each year three \$1 million prizes are awarded in three time dimensions – past, present and future. The 2014 Prize broke new ground by organizing these categories around one single theme: mind and memory. In his opening remarks at the ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, "We are paying tribute tonight to some of the world's greatest academic leaders in the study of the mind. Their insights have generated entirely new ways of understanding how the mind works and how it influences past, present and future realities."

The winners in the Past category, "History and Memory," were Prof. Saul Friedlander, one of the world's preeminent Holocaust historians and a former TAU professor; Prof. Krzysztof Czyzewski,

### Constantiner Prize Rewards Innovation in Education

This year's Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education was presented to Ms. Iris Doron, Principal of Remez High School in Pardes Katz, Bnei Brak. Doron was recognized for her efforts to raise educational standards through innovative programs and for helping reduce educational gaps. The award, which is presented annually to organizations working to bring Jewish traditions and texts into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, honors the late Dr. Constantiner, formerly Deputy Chairman of TAU's Board of Governors.



Vice Rector Dina Prialnik, Iris Doron and Head of the Constantiner School Prof. Rafi Nachmias

Dr. Constantiner was a philanthropist and crusader for Jewish causes with a long tradition of supporting Israel and TAU. His family has continued his legacy by awarding a prize in education at TAU every year as well as by supporting the Jaime and Joan Constantiner School of Education.



# Prizes Awarded



From left, front row: Mrs. Gabriela David, Mr. Pierre Nora, Prof. Brenda Milner, Prof. Marvin Minsky; back row: Prof. Peter St. George-Hyslop, Prof. Saul Friedlander, Mr. Krzysztof Czyzewski, Prof. John A. Hardy, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, TAU President Joseph Klafter, Mr. Ariel David

a renowned Polish publisher, writer, theater director, public intellectual and social activist; and Pierre Nora, a French intellectual and publisher.

Three scientists shared the \$1 million award in the Present Category, "Combatting Memory Loss": molecular geneticists Prof. John A. Hardy of University College London and Prof. Peter St. George-Hyslop of Cambridge University and the University of Toronto, for their research in Alzheimer's disease; and Prof. Brenda Milner of McGill University, who paved the way for modern learning and memory research.

In the Future Category, "Artificial Intelligence, the Digital Mind," the prize was won by Prof. Marvin Minsky of MIT, a founding father of the field of artificial intelligence.

## Sackler Prize Recognizes Young Physicists

The 2014 Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences in the field of Physics was presented to Prof. B. Andrei Bernevig of Princeton University, Prof. Liang Fu of MIT and Prof. Xiao-Liang Qi of Stanford University, for their work in the field of topological phases in condensed matter. The \$100,000 prize money was shared equally by the recipients. The Sackler Prize was established by TAU Honorary Chairman Dr. Raymond R. Sackler, and his wife, Beverly, major benefactors of the sciences at the University.



From left: Prof. Xiao-Liang Qi, Prof. Liang Fu, Prof. B. Andrei Bernevig, Prof. David Bergman and TAU's Vice President for R&D, Prof. Yoav Henis

# 2014 TAU Honorary Doctorate Recipients

## POLITICS & DIPLOMACY:

**His Excellency Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Brazil**

Prominent international statesman and staunch friend of the State of Israel



## BUSINESS:

**Mr. Ronnie C. Chan, Hong Kong**

Renowned entrepreneur, philanthropist and champion of Asia-Israel ties



## LEADERSHIP:

**Ms. Paulina Luisa Mizrahi de Deutsch, Argentina**

Inspirational community leader in Argentina, patron of education and welfare



## ARTS:

**Ms. Agi Mishol, Israel**

Celebrated Israeli poet and cultural icon



## SCIENCE:

**Prof. David Sankoff, Canada**

World leader in computational biology and the evolution of the genome



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

**Mr. Gil Shwed, Israel**

Technological pioneer, philanthropist and founding father of the modern firewall



## MEDICINE:

**Prof. Paul Zimmet, Australia**

Expert in diabetes mellitus and public health leader



## TAU Honorary Fellowship

**Cameri Theater of Tel Aviv**

Trailblazer of Israeli theater over seven decades



## Fernando Henrique Cardoso

“The Jews have made a tremendous contribution to democracy and culture in the South American continent. Against all odds, they have succeeded all the while with a profound sense of identity.”



“ Shirley, you are a natural born leader and you have led us to this exhilarating moment when we can proudly say, our Porter School of Environmental Studies and Building will serve as a model for the world.”  
– **TAU President Joseph Klafter**

“ Sometimes this project has felt like a combination between the Titanic and Chariots of Fire! I thank President Klafter for being such a forward-looking man. We look forward to the future with great enthusiasm.” – **Dame Shirley Porter**

TAU President Joseph Klafter presents Dame Shirley Porter with a photo album commemorating the Cohen-Porter family's involvement with Tel Aviv University

#### PORTER SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BUILDING

## Beacon for a Sustainable Future

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for TAU's new Porter School of Environmental Studies Building was a major highlight of this year's Board of Governors Meeting. The festive gala event was held with a packed audience in the presence of Porter School founder Dame Shirley Porter and family, TAU President Joseph Klafter and senior university officials and members of the Board of Governors.

The iconic building is situated to the east of the campus and overlooks the Ayalon Freeway, Israel's busiest thoroughfare. Built to the highest international green building standards, the building will serve as a living laboratory for environmental research, training and engagement, providing a modern space for multidisciplinary research, exhibitions, conferences and demonstrations of environmental technologies.



▲ The Porter School Building is designed to meet LEED Platinum certification, the highest accreditation of the US Green Building Council.



Dame Shirley Porter cutting the ribbon, surrounded by her children, granddaughter and great-grandchildren. Also pictured are Israeli Labor Party leader, Isaac Herzog (far left), and Tel Aviv-Yafo Mayor Ron Huldai (second from left).



Dancing the night away at the Porter School inauguration



# The State of Israel under the Microscope

The rapid development of the State of Israel since its founding in 1948 has left a plethora of unaddressed societal dilemmas in its wake. These include issues in the political, judicial, social, educational, ethical and economic spheres.

TAU's Israel Studies program is helping redress this problem by offering highly topical enrichment courses in contemporary Israel studies to undergraduate students. To date, four courses have been offered over two semesters in topics ranging from educational reform to workers' rights to the influence of the Holocaust on Israeli identity, with another four courses planned for the 2014-15 academic year.

The program is the brainchild of TAU Governor and supporter Dr. Ruth Shamir Popkin of Los Angeles. Originally from Israel, Dr. Shamir Popkin founded the program to impart knowledge on contemporary Israel to students and help equip them with critical knowledge and understanding as future leaders of the state. "Students need to be exposed to complex questions," says Shamir-Popkin, "What is the role of the Supreme Court in the shaping of a democratic society? What is the future of Israel-Diaspora relations? Does Israel need a constitution similar to the American one? How do we create a more equitable Israeli society?" she says.

Shamir-Popkin's initiative and the program



**Dr. Ruth Shamir Popkin**

“Israeli undergraduates should be educated in the workings of contemporary Israeli society.”

were praised by TAU President Joseph Klafter during the plenary session of the 2014 Board of Governors Meeting as one of the important new interdisciplinary projects on offer at the University.

A practicing attorney in both California and Israel for many years, Shamir Popkin obtained a doctorate in cultural studies in 2010 from Claremont Graduate University in California. Her dissertation examined the changing nature

of Jewish identity since the founding of the state. She has been an exchange lecturer at Nanjing University, China, in Jewish studies. She has been involved with the LA Philharmonic, American Opera and Tel Aviv Opera, and has served as a Board Member of Beit Hatefutsot – Museum of the Jewish People.

So far the program has received highly positive feedback from students, who appreciated the fascinating and thought-provoking lectures delivered by star TAU faculty. "This sort of education could lead to some original and interesting papers," says Popkin. "It gives a fresh perspective on Israel's affairs." Shamir-Popkin's goal is that the program will be a trigger for a larger center in contemporary Israel studies at the University. In addition, Dr. Shamir Popkin sponsors an annual prize to be given to the best paper in the field of Israel Studies. Her ultimate hope is that through

the program and the prize crucial issues of concern to Israeli society will be dealt with on the national level.

The program is offered within the framework of TAU's Complementary Studies Program (*Kelim Shluvim*), a core of enrichment courses giving all undergraduate students at the University a chance to get acquainted with fascinating subjects that are outside of their regular curriculum.

## INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND PHILANTHROPY

# New Vision for Israeli Giving

Philanthropy around the world is evolving at a dramatic pace. This is due to a significant increase in wealth among a large number of individuals, on the one hand, and the rise in income inequality on the other. Despite the growing awareness of the importance of philanthropy as a vehicle for social change, however, Israeli legal, fiscal and corporate policy has yet to catch up with the changing philanthropic landscape.

Now, a new institute focusing on law and philanthropy is being launched at TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law. The institute will support the country's philanthropic sector in its quest to foster a more prosperous and equitable society. It will promote multidisciplinary research and training combining law, economics, social work, management, psychology and sociology, and hold working group meetings bringing together TAU scholars with philanthropic and impact-investment fund

managers, current and potential philanthropists, government officials, policymakers and representatives of organizations in the third and fourth sectors. Research findings could be used for improving regulation and taxation of philanthropy as part of a broader, more cohesive fiscal policy.

The idea and impetus for the institute came from attorneys-at-law and philanthropists, Ms. Dafna Nehmad-Meitar and Ms. Edna Fast, in conjunction with law professor Yoram Margalioth and advocate Galia Feit of TAU's Elga Cegla Clinical Legal Education Program.

The institute was announced at a symposium entitled "Philanthropy and Its Role in Social and Economic Policy," which took place during the 2014 Board of Governors Meeting. Guest

Israeli philanthropy champions Dafna Nehmad-Meitar (left) and Edna Fast



speaker was Mr. Andrés Spokoiny, President and CEO, Jewish Funders Network.

Dean of Law Ron Harris said, "The Institute will help integrate philanthropy into Israeli socioeconomic policy for the purposes of promoting social welfare, economic growth and distributive justice and strengthening the democratic nature of the state."

### Economics Symposium: How to Build a Strong Economy

Key ingredients for economic and social resilience were discussed at a well-attended Economics Symposium at the Board of Governors Meeting. Chaired by Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel, Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors and former Governor of the Bank of Israel, the panel was made up by Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, professor of economics at TAU and Chair of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education; TAU Honorary Doctor Ronnie Chan, Chairman of the Hang Lung Group and Hang Lung Properties, Hong Kong; and TAU Honorary Doctor Gil Shwed, Founder, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Check Point Software Technologies, Israel. One theme shared by all three panelists was the belief that economic growth must support the resilience of political and social systems.



From left:  
Prof. Jacob  
A. Frenkel,  
Ronnie Chan,  
Prof. Manuel  
Trajtenberg  
and Gil Shwed



### Faitlovich Exhibit Showcases Ethiopian Jewry

The Faitlovich Exhibit on Ethiopian Jewry was inaugurated at the Sourasky Central Library in the presence of French Friends and TAU supporters Dominique and Delphine Romano. The exhibit showcases and preserves hundreds of books, manuscripts, pictures and works of art on the history and culture of Ethiopian Jewry collected by the late Dr. Jacques (Jacob) Faitlovich, a champion of Ethiopian Jewry. The event was attended by three generations of the Romano family and members of the French Friends Association, which is supporting the digitization of the collection, as well as Ethiopian students at the University. The event took place during a special "Ethiopian Day" organized by the French Friends to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Moses.

From left:  
René Romano,  
Dominique  
Romano,  
Nicole  
Romano and  
Delphine  
Romano



### Albert Dov Sigal Gallery Dedicated

The Albert Dov Sigal Gallery was opened on the first floor foyer of the Elias Sourasky Central Library, donated by Albert Dov Sigal's widow, Rose Sigal Ibsen, and son, Daniel M. Sigal. The gallery features bible-themed enamel paintings by the late artist, who received international acclaim for his work with enamel paintings and other varied media. The foyer was renovated to house the gallery and provide a welcoming environment to the thousands of students, faculty and others visitors to the library.



MK Shaul Mofaz

### Gandel Symposium

The Annual Gandel Symposium deliberated the Iranian threat and other current issues relating to Israel's security. The panel, which was moderated by Prof. Meir Litvak, Director of TAU's Alliance Center for Iranian Studies, featured Maj. Gen. Gershon Hacoheh, Commander of the Israel Defense Forces Northern Corps; Shaul Mofaz, Knesset Member and former Defense Minister; and Dr. Liora Hendelman-Baavur of TAU's Department of Middle Eastern and African History. Discussions focused on past and future threats bearing existential implications for Israel, including the privatization of warfare, the Iranian nuclear threat, and the security implications of a future Palestinian state.

## TAU 2014 BOG Highlights



From left: Judy  
and Stewart  
Colton,  
Shoshana  
Noy and TAU  
Vice President  
for Resource  
Development  
Amos Elad

### Annual Colton Meeting

TAU Governors and longtime supporters Judy and Stewart Colton visited TAU for the annual meeting of the Judy and Stewart Colton Scholarship Fund, which they founded in 1987. Joining the couple were Colton Scholarship recipients, past and present, including Supreme Court Justice Prof. Dafna Barak-Erez. Also attending were TAU President Joseph Klafter, Director-General Mordechai Kohn and former TAU President Prof. Itamar Rabinovich. During the ceremony a special scholarship was awarded to Natallie Tamman, a PhD student in mathematics, in honor of Shoshana Noy, Director of Foundations and Grants at the TAU Academic Secretariat and administrator of the Colton Scholarships, upon her retirement from the University.





Argentinean Friends President Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch with Vice President Hugo Bliffeld

### Argentinean Friends Boost Life Sciences

The plaque unveiling for the Argentinean Friends of TAU Fund for Recruitment of Outstanding New Faculty Members and the Argentina PhD Honors Program was held in the presence of Argentinean Friends President and TAU Honorary Doctor Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch, TAU Vice President Prof. Raanan Rein, TAU Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad, Dean of Life Sciences Prof. Moshe Mevarech, Director of the Smolarz Graduate School of Life Sciences Prof. Miguel Weil, faculty members, students and members of the Friends Association. During the ceremony, PhD fellowships were awarded to students.



Prof. Paul Zimmet

### Talking Diabetes

TAU Honorary Doctor Prof. Paul Zimmet, AO, Director Emeritus, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute and world renowned diabetes specialist from Melbourne, Australia, spoke on "Diabetes: The Fastest Developing and Largest Epidemic in Human History – What Does It Mean to You?" during the Board of Governors Meeting. Also speaking were Prof. Shimon Efrat and Prof. Moshe Phillip of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine. The high turnout for the event reflected the growing incidence of diabetes worldwide. In a separate event, Australian Ambassador Dave Sharma hosted a reception in honor of Prof. Zimmet at his residence, attended by dignitaries, top University officials, and friends from Australia and Israel.



### Sunset Cocktail

Members of the Board of Governors, Friends Associations and University officials gathered together on the terrace of the Carlton Hotel in Tel Aviv for a memorable sunset cocktail overlooking the Tel Aviv Marina.

## Coming Soon!

### Josef & Raya Jaglom Auditorium

Construction has begun for the Josef & Raya Jaglom Auditorium, a 200-seat multipurpose hall for Board of Governor meetings, conferences and lectures. The Auditorium is named for TAU Governor Raya Jaglom, a past President of the Israeli Friends Association and Honorary Life Member of WIZO, as well as for her late husband Josef, and will be integrated with the existing George S. Wise Senate Building.



### Check Point Building

The Dov Lautman Unit for Science Oriented Youth will gain a new home in the planned Check Point Building, which will include an auditorium, classrooms, labs and an academic science park serving thousands of students. The building's striking glass-tiled façade was inspired by cloud computing and will make the structure appear weightless and hovering. Supported by Check Point and the Rashi Fund, the building will also provide space for the Blavatnik School of Computer Science.



### Millie Phillips Lobby in the Steinhardt Museum

Australian philanthropist Millie Phillips has donated the lobby of the new Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and National Research Center. Featuring three-story high glass walls, and with the uniquely-designed wooden Ark suspended above it, the 280 square meter lobby will feature scientific exhibits, function as a gathering and refreshments area during events held at the building's auditorium, and serve as an information hub for visitors.



What does it mean to be culturally Jewish? What can Judaism offer to the secular individual? These fundamental questions relating to Jewish identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are at the heart of TAU's *Ofakim* (Horizons) teacher training program founded and supported exclusively by the Posen Foundation.

teachers with the tools they need to educate Israeli schoolchildren about Judaism as a culture and a civilization. The program reflects Felix Posen's vision of educating the secular Jewish majority about Jewish history, philosophy, literature and culture. To date, the program has graduated several dozen educators who in

university, and in the most positive of ways, without ever depreciating the religious origin of our rich history and culture."

The ceremony was preceded by a symposium on "Cultural Judaism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" featuring guest speakers Maj. Gen. (res.) Uzi Dayan, Chairman of Tafnit and founder and president of the annual Israel Conference for Social and Economic Policy in Sderot; Gidi Grinstein, Founder and President of the Reut Institute; and Prof. Michal Govrin, novelist, poet and theater director.

During the ceremony, Prof. Klafter presented Jane Posen with a gift in appreciation of her steadfast support. "Jane has stood by Felix and Daniel's side throughout this process," he said.

Also participating in the ceremony were Head of the Department of Heritage, Ministry of Education, Tzila Miron-Ilan; Director of the Posen Foundation Yael Nakhon-Harel; Head of the Ofakim Program Prof. Ron Margolin; former Program Head Prof. Eli Yassif; Ofakim students and graduates and members of the Board of Governors.



Felix Posen and Amos Oz

## Felix Posen

"We chose Tel Aviv University for the Ofakim Program because of its excellence in Jewish Studies."

The program recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a special ceremony paying tribute to its founders: Felix Posen, President of the Posen Foundation, his wife Jane, and their son, Daniel, CEO of the Foundation. Keynote speaker at the event was Israeli author Amos Oz, a close friend of the Posen family.

The Ofakim Program was designed to equip

turn have taught 10,000 Israeli schoolchildren.

TAU President Joseph Klafter paid tribute to Felix, "whose vision has become a reality, and Daniel, who has shown dedication and incredible leadership of the program."

Felix Posen said, "It has been a special privilege to witness how a syllabus has been successfully created by a dedicated team at this great



Daniel and Felix Posen

## VARDA AND BOAZ DOTAN RESEARCH CENTER IN HEMATO-ONCOLOGY

# Advancing Research in Blood Cancers



## Boaz Dotan, Amdocs co-founder

"We donate out of a strong belief that everyone who can is obliged to give. When people donate they return their debt to society."

Twenty years ago a young soldier was diagnosed with leukemia. It took nearly three years from diagnosis to recovery and today he is over 40 years old, a father of three amazing children and completely free of disease. This moving story about his son was related by TAU Governor Boaz Dotan upon the inauguration of the Varda and Boaz Dotan Research Center in Hemato-Oncology during the 2014 Board of Governors Meeting.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said at the ceremony, "With about 60 principal research groups working in different fields, as well as some 250-world class clinical researchers, physicians and surgeons at the oncology departments of major hospitals, there is no doubt that TAU is a powerhouse in cancer research."

During the ceremony, eight grants were awarded to outstanding TAU researchers in the field of hemato-oncology. The ceremony was moderated by Prof. Nadir Arber, Head of TAU's Cancer Biology Research Center and Djerassi-Elias Institute of Oncology, Sackler Faculty of Medicine.



# Top Global Friends Events



## Los Angeles: Classical Evening

An intimate group of TAU alumni, friends and AFTA leaders were the guests of Laura Ornest and Rick Leslie for a musical evening at their home, featuring a performance by cellist TAU alumnus and artistic director of MusicTalks, Elad Kabilio, and pianist Ben Laude. Pictured from left: Rick Leslie, Barry Neikrug, Laura Ornest, Benjamin Laude and Elad Kabilio

## Paris: Star Siblings

Stem cell researcher Dr. Yechiel Elkabetz shared recent findings at a soiree held by the French Friends that included the premiere of the latest film by Elkabetz's siblings, Ronit and Shlomi. The event was generously sponsored by David Birene and family in memory of the late Beatrice Birene.

Pictured from left: Lyne Gelrubin, Samuel and Olivia Gelrubin, French Friends President Prof. François Heilbronn and Dr. Yechiel Elkabetz



## London: University for a Day

The Tel Aviv University Trust in the UK brought the unique breadth and excellence of TAU to London for a day of public workshops featuring five world-reputed TAU professors who showcased their exciting research.

Pictured: TAU leadership and professors at Investec Specialist Bank headquarters, where the event was hosted.



## Montreal: Combating Child Cancer

The Canadian Friends in Montreal welcomed pediatric oncologist Dr. Shai Izraeli at a reception hosted by Dr. Karen Buzaglo and Alexandre Abecassis. Among the guests were Consul General Joel Lion and ICRF Executive Director Arlene Silver. Pictured from left: Dr. Shai Izraeli, Alexandre Abecassis and Dr. Karen Buzaglo



## New York: Masterpieces

American Friends leaders and supporters gathered to view the stunning collection of art historian Phyllis Hattis at an evening of art and music hosted by TAU Governor Dr. Arturo Constantiner and his wife, Caren. Guests enjoyed hearing from TAU alumnus Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Pictured from left: Galina Novikova, Phyllis Hattis, AFTA President and CEO Gail Reiss, Ido Aharoni and Caren Constantiner



## Tel Aviv: Fueling Economic Growth

Israel Minister of the Economy Naftali Bennett presented his economic vision for Israel in the coming years as special guest of the Israeli Friends' Business-Academic Club. Pictured from left: TAU President Joseph Klafter, Chairman of the Israeli Friends Amnon Dick, Naftali Bennett and Executive Director of the Israeli Friends Sigal Adar



## Buenos Aires: Borges Tribute

Over 350 guests of the Argentinean Friends attended a memorial tribute to author and staunch supporter of Israel Jorge Luis Borges. Borges' wife, María Kodama, was keynote speaker at the event held at the National Museum of Fine Arts. Pictured from left: Argentinean Friends President Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch, Alejandra Chiesa, Vera Navarro, Ethel Di Laudadio, María Kodama and Claudia Stad

## Mexico: Water Resources

TAU water expert Dr. Dror Avisar (pictured) spoke at several top universities and met with Mexico's leading authorities on water at various institutions to discuss collaborations with TAU at a series of events organized by the Mexican Friends.



## Melbourne: Oration

A large crowd heard former Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks, speak on the contribution of migrants to the development of post-war Australia at the 2014 Annual Oration held by the Australian Friends of TAU (Victoria). This year's event was sponsored by Erdigroup and Eva Erdi in memory of her late husband, TAU supporter Les Erdi. Pictured from left: Member of Parliament Michael Danby, Philip Zajac, Steve Bracks, Victorian Friends President Dr. Victor Wayne



## Toronto: Global Initiatives

Dr. Tal Sadeh, Head of TAU's Harold Hartog School of Government and Policy, spoke on global development initiatives at an event organized by the Canadian Friends in Toronto and hosted by Ruben and Luna Shiffman. Attending the event was special guest Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Consul General of India, who spoke on India-Israel collaborations.

Pictured from left: CFTA Ontario and Western Region Chairman Jeff Wagman, Ruben Shiffman and Dr. Tal Sadeh

## Brazil: Next Generation Ambassadors

The Brazilian Friends facilitated a three-day intensive seminar at TAU for a delegation of young business executives from Brazil's leading high-tech companies. The participants, who met with their Israeli counterparts to learn about the "startup nation," committed to becoming active members of the Friends organization. Pictured: The group enjoys the ancient site of Caesaria





Marc Besen (left) and the late Prof. Zvi Yavetz

PROFILE: MARC BESEN

## From Chernovitz to Tel Aviv

In an act of generosity and homage, Australia's Eva and Marc Besen are dedicating TAU's School of Historical Studies in the name of a cherished friend, iconic historian Prof. Zvi Yavetz (1925-2013)

As childhood friends in the formerly Romanian city of Chernovitz, two boys grew up playing ping pong and chess, immersed in a thriving Jewish community rich in synagogues, cultural institutions and the Yiddish language. Yet the cruel winds of fate soon brought this to an end. Of the Jews of Chernovitz, who constituted a quarter of the city's population in the early 1930s, few survived the Holocaust. Centuries of traditions and family lines were reduced to ashes, childhoods snatched and smashed.

Yet the two boyhood friends – Marc Besen and Zvi Yavetz – managed to escape their homeland in time to save themselves. Mr. Besen went on to establish a major women's clothing chain and other successful business ventures in Australia. He and his wife, Eva, became well-known for their major philanthropic contribution to society and were both awarded the

prestigious Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). In Israel, Prof. Yavetz pursued a career in academia, proving instrumental in founding Tel Aviv University's Department of History, and indeed the entire Entin Faculty of Humanities, where he served as Dean.

Despite the distance between them, the two men retained their special connection, with Prof. Yavetz drawing his old friend into the TAU family as a governor and benefactor.

Now, some 70 years since his exodus from Chernovitz, and in a milestone for the field of humanities at Tel Aviv University, Marc Besen AO and Eva Besen AO are dedicating TAU's School of Historical Studies in the name of Prof. Yavetz, who passed away in January, 2013. Cherished both for his humor and devotion to his craft, Prof. Yavetz's seminal research on the Roman Empire and on ancient and modern anti-Semitism is considered canonical. He also

founded the Israel Defense Forces' Command and Staff College, which trains senior IDF officers.

### Historical powerhouse

The School of Historical Studies serves as an umbrella framework for most historical research carried out at the University and supervises doctoral students from six departments. The School not only trains historians, but also has produced prominent policymakers, diplomats, journalists and other influential figures in both Israel and abroad. Among its 90 faculty members, the School has six Israel Prize laureates – including Prof. Yavetz – and four members of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Prof. Leo Corry, a world-recognized expert in the history of the exact sciences and the School's new head, says that, in addition to "enhancing the school's high level of scholarly distinction, the Besen family's generous donation will fund scholarships for our most brilliant students." The Besen gift will also finance travel grants for young scholars to pursue doctoral research at historical archives abroad; expand post-doctoral fellowship frameworks, and overall advance the School's global profile.

### A family covenant

The dedication of the Yavetz School marks the culmination of decades of Besen family support for TAU. The family inaugurated the Gusta and Simon Besen Hall of Human Rights in 1981, and founded the Eva and Marc Besen Institute for the Study of Historical Consciousness in 1989. They also contributed to fellowships, to publication of special edition historical journals, and to the TAU Australian Friends-Victoria scholarship fund.

In recognition of Marc Besen's remarkable entrepreneurial career, community leadership, charitable works and friendship toward Tel Aviv University, he was the first Australian recipient of a TAU honorary doctorate in 1985.

In Australia, through the Besen Family Foundation, the Besens are one of the country's most significant philanthropic forces, supporting a range of pioneering projects and grants in the arts, health and welfare, as well as acting as bastions of support for the Jewish community.

Whether in history or art, education or health, the Besen spirit of giving has and continues to enrich the lives of countless people. Here, in Israel, an entire new generation of talented scholars will now benefit from this family culture – nurturing tomorrow's experts and leaders who will keep the legacy of Prof. Yavetz burning bright.