Joschka Fischer among honorary doctors

• Yo-Yo Ma wins Dan David Prize

• Two new graduate schools

• Neurobiology Institute named after Rabin

• Profile: Nathan Shapell

from the president

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first issue of TAU Insider, a tribute to our friends and supporters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Steinhardt, who contributed six years of his wise counsel and leadership as TAU’s Chairman of the Board, and to wish success upon Robert Goldberg, our new Chairman and immediate past National Chairman of the United Jewish Communities, USA. I would also like to congratulate Prof. Zvi Galil, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University, for being selected as the next president of TAU. He will assume the post in June 2007, pending ratification of his selection by the TAU Board of Governors at its May meeting.

Fortunately our 50th jubilee year has been marked by a significant upturn in the financial position of TAU and the Israeli university system. TAU has reduced its budget deficit and expects to achieve full operational balance by the end of 2008. More significantly, the current Israeli government has decided to reverse the policy of previous governments and to restore to the higher education budget the 20 percent (about $300 million) that was cut earlier in the decade.

TAU is committed to both maintaining and enhancing its leading position in various areas of science. To do so, however, requires the recruitment of the best young researchers at substantial expense. Covering their salaries is only part of the outlay; start-up costs for establishing new laboratories can cost $1 million and above.

Young faculty recruitment is oxygen for a research institution. I urge our supporters to help advance this top priority in our Jubilee fundraising campaign.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich
President

Jubilee year: Governors meet for TAU’s 50th anniversary festivities, inaugurate Jubilee fundraising campaign projects

When Tel Aviv University was founded in 1956 with 130 students, who could have guessed that what was essentially a local institution would evolve into Israel’s largest and finest university, with 29,000 students and a worldwide reputation for academic excellence? At this year’s Board of Governors meeting, about 500 TAU governors, supporters and guests gathered to celebrate this tremendous achievement.

They also attended the inaugurations of 14 donor projects that have substantially augmented the university’s capacity to conduct biomedical and high-tech research, to award graduate fellowships, and to extend student aid.

The projects – among them schools and institutes – were dedicated within the framework of TAU’s Jubilee fundraising campaign. The two-year, $120 million campaign targets four main areas for TAU’s continuing development: investment in strategic research fields, young faculty recruitment, expanded graduate studies, and increased study opportunities for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.

Additional events at the 2006 Board meeting included the university’s top annual prize-awarding ceremonies, seminars, and social events.

The Rector of TAU, Prof. Dany Leviatan, announced that four strategic research directions had been selected under the New Horizons program launched last year. The four fields, which will receive priority funding, are Ancient Israel; Astronomy and Astrophysics; Biophysics; and Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cells.

Felber Plaza Gives Jubilee Campaign a Focal Point

One of the highlights of TAU’s Jubilee celebrations was the inauguration of the Aviva and Urs Felber Jubilee Plaza, situated in the heart of the campus. The plaza marks 50 years of vision and generosity on the part of the university’s founders and benefactors. Dr. Urs Felber, an industrialist from Monaco and a TAU honorary doctor and governor, donated the plaza together with his wife Aviva.

The plaza’s central component, the Jubilee Honor Wall, will be unveiled in May 2007 with inscriptions of contributors to the TAU Jubilee campaign.

Extending over 2,500 square meters (about 25,000 sq. ft.), the plaza includes a paved area, landscaping and adjacent gardens.

Aviva and Urs Felber
Each year, Tel Aviv University confers honorary doctorates and fellowships on a select group of remarkable people who have brought great benefit to society.

1. Sheldon G. Adelson, USA
   Entrepreneur, venture capitalist and supporter of Israeli and Jewish causes, including medical studies and research at TAU.

2. Stewart M. Colton, USA
   Vice Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors, international investor, philanthropist, and longtime benefactor and leader of TAU and the Tel Aviv University: American Council.

3. Michael H. Steinhardt, USA
   Global Jewish leader, Wall Street legend, founder of Taglit birthright Israel, former TAU Chairman of the Board and university benefactor.

4. Prof. Sir Samuel Frederick Edwards, UK
   Pioneer of condensed matter physics and active promoter of British-Israeli scientific collaboration.

5. Joseph (Joschka) Martin Fischer, Germany
   Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Chancellor of Germany, outspoken critic of anti-Semitism, and staunch friend of Israel.

6. John Gandel AO, Australia
   Prominent Australian businessman and Jewish community figure and committed friend and supporter of TAU.

7. Amalia Kahana-Carmon, Israel
   Author, Israel Prize winner for Literature, and pioneer of women's literature in Israel.

8. Liz Mohn, Germany
   World's most influential businesswoman in the media field and supporter of higher education in Israel, including at TAU.

9. Gerald W. Schwartz, Canada
   Electronics manufacturer and philanthropist, and supporter of Israel and Israeli-Canadian academic cooperation.

10. Felix Posen, UK
    Promoter of Jewish tradition and culture, and founder of innovative Jewish Studies programs at TAU.

11. Gaby Chariton Brill, USA
    Honorary Fellowship, Jewish community leader, active member of the TAU American Council in Florida, and supporter of numerous projects at TAU.

Honorary degrees

Tribute to First TAU President

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. George S. Wise, a manufacturer and entrepreneur who served as the first president of TAU from 1963 to 1972, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, the university's sixth president, paid tribute to the late Dr. Wise and his wife Florence.

Dr. Wise was instrumental in transforming TAU from a local college into the country's major center of research, teaching and community involvement. He and his wife also founded a number of important projects at TAU, including the Florence and George Wise Observatory, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and George S. Wise Senate Building.

• Hugo Ramanjeanu Prize in Economics – Dr. Yossi Vardi of ICQ fame, for his life-long contribution to Israel's development in the high-tech, industrial and financial sectors
• Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences – Prof. Yuri V. Kovchegov, Ohio State University, and Prof. Thomas Glasmacher, Michigan State University, both of the US, for their ground-breaking contributions to nuclear physics
• Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education – Michael H. Steinhardt, for his extraordinary impact on furthering Jewish education as a basis for deepening Jewish identity, continuity and connection to Israel.
• Max Perlman Award for Excellence in Global Business Management – Israeli businessman Yitzhak Teshuvah, for his success in a broad range of international activities
• Adler Prize for Child Welfare and Protection – MACOM ("place") self-help Web site for victims of sexual abuse
• TAU President's Award – Prof. Ephraim Katzir, fourth president of the State of Israel, for his founding role in biotechnology studies at TAU and life-long championing of higher education and research in Israel
• The inaugural Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics – Dr. Harvey T. McMahon, Cambridge University, UK, and Prof. Paul R. Selvin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, for their work in "physics of biological molecules and assemblies."
TAU launched **five new fellowship funds** that are supporting talented, motivated students at all levels who lack the financial means for studies, as well as rewarding excellence among advanced research students.

Two new fellowship funds for doctoral students are supporting research in neurobiology, while also boosting advanced research in the humanities and social sciences. The **Joseph Sagol Fellowship Program in Brain Studies and Joseph Sagol Fellowship Program in the Humanities and Social Sciences** were dedicated by Sammy Sagol of Israel in memory of his father Joseph. Sagol is Chairman of the Board of global plastics giant Keter, co-owner of the Hapoel Keter Tel Aviv Soccer team, and sponsor of outreach programs for at-risk youth from throughout Israel.

The **Sir Leslie Porter Fellowship Program for Excellence in Environmental Studies** supports post-doctoral research at the Porter School of Environmental Studies, founded by the Porter family in 2000 to advance knowledge and train new leadership in Israel in the environmental field. The school is the first and only graduate school in Israel dedicated to the research, teaching and dissemination of interdisciplinary environmental studies.

**“My fellowship allows me to devote far more time and energy to my studies. I believe that scientific research is a true form of social commitment.”**

Julia Tamir-Doljansky, Sagol Fellow and PhD student in brain research, who is one of 2,000 doctoral students at TAU.

**The Ronald and Susan Krongold New Immigrant Doctoral Fellowships in Microelectronics** have a dual goal: supporting advanced research in engineering while easing the integration of new immigrants into Israeli society. The fellowships were donated by Dinah Krongold in honor of her son Ron Krongold, President of the Victoria Chapter of the Australian Friends of TAU, and his wife Susan. Ron’s late father Henry was a strong supporter of TAU and he and Dinah established a chair in microelectronics engineering. The fund reflects continuity in the Krongold family’s commitment to TAU and reinforces the Australian Friends’ support for student scholarships.

A fellowship program for post-doctoral students in environmental studies was inaugurated by Dame Shirley Porter in memory of her late husband, Sir Leslie, former TAU Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors and generous TAU benefactor. **The Sir Leslie Porter Fellowship Program for Excellence in Environmental Studies** supports post-doctoral research at the Porter School of Environmental Studies, founded by the Porter family in 2000 to advance knowledge and train new leadership in Israel in the environmental field. The school is the first and only graduate school in Israel dedicated to the research, teaching and dissemination of interdisciplinary environmental studies.

**The Les and Eva Erdi New Immigrant Doctoral Fellowships**, donated by Les and Eva Erdi of Melbourne, Australia, are creating vital new opportunities for new immigrant PhD candidates and helping maximize their full potential. Les Erdi is a large-scale developer of residential apartment buildings in Australia. The Erdis, who this year celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary, are supporters of numerous philanthropic causes in Israel and Australia.
SMOLARZ SCHOOL EXPANDS RESEARCH IN LIFE SCIENCES

Advances in the life sciences, particularly the decoding of the human genome, have opened up exciting new biomedical and biotechnology fields. TAU’s new Smolarz Family Graduate School of Life Sciences is ensuring that young scientists are central to this research thrust by providing a top quality framework for about 500 master’s and doctoral students to conduct research in TAU laboratories.

The school’s name honors TAU Honorary Doctor and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors Adolfo Smolarz of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and his family. Activities at the school are devoted to developing new drugs and diagnostic tools for Parkinson’s and other debilitating diseases, creating new crops to feed the world, conserving the world’s animal population and battling pollution.

TAU President Itamar Rabinovich said the Smolarz family was at the forefront of a long tradition of Argentinean support for TAU. The Smolarzs are devoted friends whose name is linked in perpetuity with the university’s main public auditorium and a library in life sciences and medicine.

Adolfo and Miriam Smolarz with their daughter Aida

ADELSON SCHOOL BOOSTS GRADUATE STUDIES IN MEDICINE

Established by TAU honorary doctor Sheldon G. Adelson and his wife Dr. Miriam Adelson, a physician and TAU alumna, the school has a total of 1,100 master’s and doctoral students. Under the new framework, an additional 50 PhD fellowships are being granted to outstanding young researchers and practitioners in the medical sciences, health professions, dental medicine and public health.

Sheldon G. Adelson is Chairman of the Board of Las Vegas Sands Corporation and developer of mega hotel resorts in Las Vegas and Macau, China. TAU President Itamar Rabinovich described him as an “unusually creative entrepreneur whose vision has changed the status quo in each area he enters.”

“Israel’s major asset lies in its Jewish intelligence and we must therefore support the universities because this is where exceptional minds develop and flourish,” said Adolfo Smolarz at the ceremony.

The Adelsons are major benefactors of Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem and strong supporters of Jewish and Israeli institutions as well as of medical research foundations.
Dan David Prize Rewards Excellence, Creativity and Equality

A world-famous cellist, two leading American cancer researchers and four journalists were awarded the 2006 Dan David Prize, which at a total of $3 million is one of the world’s largest and most prestigious monetary prizes. Supported by businessman and inventor Dan David of Italy, a TAU governor and honorary doctor, the prize is endowed by the Dan David Foundation and headquartered at Tel Aviv University. Each year the prize is awarded in three fields selected to represent three time dimensions: Past, Present and Future. One tenth of the prize money in each category is allocated to graduate fellowships.

The winner in the Past Time Dimension for preserving cultural heritage was cellist Yo-Yo Ma. He was cited for his work as founder and artistic director of the Silk Road Project, which is dedicated to reviving the music, ideas, arts and culture of nations spanning the Silk Road trade route that crisscrossed Eurasia — from ancient times until the 15th century.

Two pioneers in cancer treatment, Dr. John Mendelsohn, President of the University of Texas’s MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Prof. Joseph Schlessinger, chairman of pharmacology at the Yale School of Medicine, shared the prize in the Future Time Dimension. Mendelsohn developed an innovative therapy for the treatment of advanced colorectal cancer, while Schlessinger made advances in cell biology that have led to a new family of cancer drugs.

Four journalists noted for their pursuit of democracy and human rights in troubled regions of the world shared the prize for the Present Time Dimension in the field of “Journalists of the Print Media”: Magdi Allam of Italy, Deputy Editor of Corriere della Serra; Mónica González of Chile, investigative reporter; Adam Michnik of Poland, Editor of Gazeta Wyborcza; and Goenawan Mohamad of Indonesia, poet, writer, journalist and founder of Tempo Magazine.

The ceremony was held at TAU’s Miriam and Adolfo Smolarz Auditorium and the reception in the Kuky and Sergio Grosskopf Family Foyer.

LEFT: Dan David (third from right) and his son Ariel (far left) congratulating the four prize-winning journalists

RIGHT: Yo-Yo Ma teaching a master class at TAU’s Buchmann-Melht School of Music
Getting to the Root of Addictive Diseases

“Miri is addicted to addiction” was how Sheldon Adelson described his wife Miriam, an expert on addiction, at the inaugural ceremony of the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Chair in the Biology of Addictive Diseases. A TAU alumna in medicine, Dr. Adelson is a leading physician in the field of drug rehabilitation. She sponsors and manages two major chemical dependency treatment and research facilities in Tel Aviv and Nevada, USA. Dr. Adelson said she hoped the new chair would lead to better understanding of the molecular biological systems underlying addiction for the development of new cures and treatments.

Colton Institute Boosts Emerging Technologies

An institute dedicated to bridging between a scientific discovery and its possible application has been funded at TAU by Stewart M. Colton, Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, TAU honorary doctor and former Chairman of the TAU American Council, and his wife Judy. The gift reflects the Colton’s commitment to investing in knowledge-based industries in Israel and builds on their previous investment in TAU’s Future Technology Partnership.

Headed by Vice President for Research and Development Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron, the Colton Family Next Generation Technologies Institute is providing seed money to develop high-tech and biomedical technologies still in the laboratory stage that have promising commercial potential. It is promoting the ethical transfer of university technology to industry, holding enterprise workshops, and sponsoring business plan competitions.

Krauthamer Estate Supports Theoretical Physics and Nanoscience

The Dr. Teodoro Jack and Dorothea Krauthamer Chair in Physics is helping advance understanding of the fundamental interactions in nature and the origins of the universe. The chair supports the research of TAU physicist and expert in string theory and the physics of elementary particles, Prof. Shimon Yankielowicz.
Austrians Dedicate Institute of Neurobiology in Rabin’s Name

The advent of nanoscience and technology means that scientists will be able to manipulate atoms and molecules into systems and mechanical devices that are ever smaller and more powerful.

The new laboratory provides TAU with a state-of-the-art facility for monitoring the shape and chemical nature of individual nanoparticles, as well of their incorporation of larger, more complex systems essential for developing new materials in nanoscience. The laboratory is headed by Prof. Ori Cheshnovsky, Director of TAU’s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Krauthamers’ nephew Yoram Nagler of Israel, family members, and Jorge Adler, Chairman of the Mexican Friends Association of TAU.

To further understand the complex biological processes involved in nervous disorders such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Lou Gehrig’s disease, the Austrian Friends of TAU have collectively founded a new research institute at TAU.

The institute is dedicated to the memory of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and was inaugurated in the presence of his daughter, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, at the new Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies near the TAU campus.

Headed by Prof. Danny Michaelson of the Department of Neurobiochemistry, the Yitzhak Rabin Institute for Neurobiology pools the expertise of 130 researchers in medicine, life sciences and social sciences and at affiliated hospitals who are investigating neurobiology-related fields.

Important achievements at TAU include the discovery of new potassium channels critical for brain and heart functions; the development of a drug therapy to alleviate the acute symptoms of head trauma and stroke; and the development of unique antibodies as a potential therapy for Alzheimer’s disease.

The top leadership of Lodz universities at TAU
New Forum Targets Business Community

The Tel Aviv University London Forum was launched at a festive dinner hosted by David Meller, Chairman of the TAU Trust in Great Britain. Guest of honor was Minister of Education Yuli Tamir, a former TAU professor of education and philosophy. The forum was established to raise awareness of the university in London and is being led by David Meller; John Mendelsohn, a member of the international advisory board of TAU’s Hartog School of Government and Policy; and Ian Fisher, a TAU alumnus.

In a series of exclusive gatherings sponsored by the forum, TAU professors in management and public policy gave lectures hosted by John Mendelsohn of the consulting firm, Financial Dynamics; SJ Berwin and Mishcon de Reya law offices; the Conservative Friends of Israel; and Anthony Yadgaroff, Managing-Director of the Allenbridge Group and a TAU governor.

National Security Institute Launched

The first US event of TAU’s new Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), which incorporates the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies and is chaired by Frank Lowy AC, was held in New York City. Speaking at the seminar, entitled “The Aftermath of the War in Lebanon – Global, Regional and Israeli Perspectives,” were Ambassador Martin S. Indyk, Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; Dan Meridor, former Israeli Minister of Finance and former Minister of Justice; Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, President of Tel Aviv University; and Dr. Zvi Shatauber, Director of the INSS.

Hold the Date!

The 16th Regional Conference of the Board of Governors will be held in Vienna – home of Beethoven and Freud – on 22-26 March, 2007.

New York

INSS Seminar

INSS seminar, entitled “The Aftermath of the War in Lebanon,” spoke in New York City about “Global, Regional and Israeli Perspectives.”

INSS Institute

INSS Institute was inaugurated in New York in a seminar on “The Aftermath of the War in Lebanon.”

Shapell Prize recognizes outstanding student

The 2006 Nathan Shapell Prize for Outstanding Community Service was awarded to Nurit Barkan, a master’s degree student in social work in recognition of her highly professional and sensitive work with the Ethiopian community.

Profile Nathan Shapell

“Advocating for social change and training the nation’s most qualified social workers is part of the mission of TAU’s Bob Shapell School of Social Work.”

When Nathan Shapell, one of California’s largest homebuilders, linked his family’s name with TAU’s School of Social Work, he was putting into practice one of his long-held beliefs – that a successful businessman has a responsibility to give back to society. He and his wife, Lilly, also sought a fitting project for memorializing their late son, Bob.

Twenty-five years later, TAU’s Bob Shapell School of Social Work has come a long way in fulfilling Shapell’s vision of academic and research excellence combined with measurable impact on Israeli society. The most comprehensive school of its kind in Israel, the Shapell School trains over 1,200 students and practicing professionals each year to provide viable solutions to Israel’s most pressing social problems.

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“Outstanding students are the most sought after, both in the workplace and in other academic programs,” says Prof. Tammie Ronen, Shapell’s first PhD graduate and today the school’s head. In 2002, to answer the needs of a continually growing school, Nathan Shapell donated a new wing, providing three additional floors of teaching space, staff and seminar rooms, a library and two computer laboratories.

“Mr. Shapell’s caring and support for the school over the years is a shining example to every donor,” says Ronen. “After the construction of the first building, he created the Bob Shapell School of Social Work Endowment Fund, thereby solidifying, in perpetuity, his family’s relationship with the school, ensuring proper maintenance of the physical structure, and making possible innovative programs that would otherwise not have been feasible.”

Areas of impact

In keeping with the school’s mission to help shape social welfare policy in Israel, members of faculty have served in key positions promoting welfare legislation. Achievements include improved policy in the areas of children’s rights, care of the elderly, and access to public buildings for the disabled.

The contribution of faculty members to social outreach and innovative programs is far reaching in the areas of drug and substance abuse; violence in the schools; AIDS care; post-traumatic stress disorder; and children at risk and in danger.

Rebuilding lives

Born in Sosnowiec, Poland, in 1922, Nathan Shapell survived the Holocaust, spending time in labor camps and in Auschwitz. He and his brother, David, and sister, Sala, were the sole survivors of their entire family. Nathan Shapell the “builder” emerged immediately after the war when, as a 22-year-old refugee, he assumed direction, together with his wife, Lilly, of the housing projects for displaced persons in Münchberg, Germany. In the next six years Shapell became a leader in aiding homeless and orphaned Jews.

“I had seen too much destruction in my life; my goal was to become involved in doing something in which I would see rebuilding rather than destroying,” Shapell has said.