



TEL AVIV
UNIVERSITY

Insider

Fall 2007

Prof. Zvi Galil ratified as President at 2007 Board of Governors Meeting, promises renewal

Prof. Zvi Galil, an alumnus and former faculty member of Tel Aviv University, was ratified as university president at the annual meeting of the Board of Governors. He was introduced by Chairman of the Board **Robert Goldberg**, a member of the selection committee for the president, who stressed Prof. Galil's leadership skills and impressive track record as the Dean of Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Science over the past 11 years.

Prof. Galil was warmly received by TAU governors who gathered for the festive, convivial and event-filled meeting. About 600 supporters and guests deliberated on new developments at TAU and took part in five days' worth of inaugurations, prize ceremonies, conferences, cultural functions and galas.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Galil said: "A university is successful if it renews itself in each generation by moving beyond activities that have run their course, carefully selecting new paths to pursue, and rapidly responding to new opportunities."

Transition was one of the main



TAU President
Zvi Galil

themes of this year's board meeting. Governors and supporters bid farewell to **Prof. Itamar Rabinovich**, who completed his eight-year term, as well as to **Prof. Gideon Langholz**, who was succeeded by **Mordehai Kohn** as the university's Director-General. Among other accomplishments, Rabinovich and Langholz were credited for successfully steering the university through a severe financial crisis, triggered by deep and repeated government cuts, and placing it firmly on the path to rejuvenation.

Stress on research

Seven research centers and institutes were dedicated at this board — more than

at any meeting in the last 10 years. This development reflects the university's goal of securing first place in Israel, and a top ranking in the world, among research institutions.

"We want to be, within five years, one of the top 50 universities in the world," said the Chairman of the TAU Executive Council, 2007 Israel Prize laureate **Dov Lautman**.

To help reach this objective, Lautman said, TAU needs to recruit 35 additional faculty members each year. "With new labs for young researchers costing up to \$1 million and above, the challenge is formidable, but must be met," he said.

TAU's Rector, **Prof. Dany Leviatan**, noted that 26 new faculty members



Chairman of the
Board of Governors
Robert Goldberg

EXCITING ETHIOPIAN YOUTH PROJECT

PROFILE:

ISRAELI DONORS

JUBILEE HONOR WALL INAUGURATED

LEGAL RESEARCH GETS BOOST

had been absorbed by TAU this past academic year.

Participants at the board meeting were invited for a first-hand look at TAU's outstanding research capabilities. They toured labs in fields such as tissue regeneration and infrared fibers led by **Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron**, Vice President for Research and Development, and attended a research poster presentation by graduate students held in the Grosskopf Family Foyer, Smolarz Auditorium.

10 Facts about Zvi Galil

1. His father, Professor Yaacov Galil, was one of six founders of TAU
2. BSc and MSc in applied mathematics, both summa cum lauda, from TAU
3. PhD in computer science from Cornell University, 1975
4. Full professor in 1981 at age 34
5. Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University, 1995-2007
6. As dean, raised \$175 million in donations, tripled endowment, and quadrupled annual research funding
7. Held two endowed chairs at Columbia
8. Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and member of the (US) National Academy of Engineering
9. Editor of five books and author of over 200 academic articles
10. Ran over 20 marathons including the Tel Aviv, London and New York City marathons.



Students of the **Buchmann-Mehta School of Music** perform Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in a production sponsored by Dr. h.c. Josef and Bareket Buchmann, Karl Lion, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Fund for Higher Education, USA.

Message from the President

Dear friends and supporters,

I feel excited and privileged to take the helm of such a wonderful university. In one way, it closes a circle — this is the institution where my father worked, where I received my initial academic training, where I met my wife, and where I got my first chance to teach and shape bright young minds.

In another way, my assuming the post of president represents a new beginning. I've been meeting with the faculty deans and learning anew about TAU's accomplishments and current needs. I've been encountering enthusiastic young researchers and students who brim with scientific creativity. We should build upon our talented people and centers of excellence to propel TAU into the top tier of universities in the world.

In all the university has accomplished to date, our supporters have played a decisive and invaluable role. I extend my gratitude to them for their caring and involvement. I look forward to meeting with TAU's friends and donors in the coming period, both at our board meetings and in my travels abroad, and to widening further the impact and reach of the university.

Professor Zvi Galil
TAU President

honorary degrees

Honorary degrees were conferred on 13 individuals with remarkable records of lifetime achievement

Honorary Doctors

1 Dr. Miriam Adelson, USA

Physician, scientist, champion of research on addictive diseases, and TAU supporter

2 Alfred Akirov, Israel

Real estate developer, leader of the TAU Israeli Friends Association, and supporter of research and doctoral fellowships at TAU

3 Aharon Appelfeld, Israel

Author, Israel Prize laureate in literature, voice of Jewish history, memory and identity

4 Fred Chaoul, Argentina

Industrialist, Jewish leader, promoter of Jewish education in Israel and Argentina, and supporter of research at TAU

5 Alain Finkelkraut, France

Philosopher, social critic and cultural icon, foe of anti-Semitism

6 Richard M. Karp, USA

Groundbreaker in algorithmic research and bioinformatics, teacher and mentor, promoter of academic cooperation with Israel

7 Mary Jeanne Kreek, USA

Scientist and clinician, pioneer of methadone treatment for drug addicts, and teacher of generations of students

8 Dov Lautman, Israel

Israel Prize-winning industrialist and civic leader, promoter of peace and educational equality, Chairman of the TAU Executive Council and dedicated university benefactor

9 Peter Schäfer, USA

Scholar and world authority in Jewish studies, energetic leader of field in Germany and the USA, and promoter of academic cooperation between TAU and Germany

10 Barbara Seal, Canada

Judge, public and Jewish community leader in Canada, and President of the Canadian Friends of TAU for two decades

11 Joel D. Tauber, USA

Prominent Jewish American leader and philanthropist, supporter of aliyah to Israel, former National Chairman of the TAU American Council and university benefactor

12 Leslie H. Wexner, USA

Industrialist, civic and Jewish leader in America, philanthropist and promoter of young Jewish leadership in the United States and Israel

Honorary Fellowship

13 Peter Kobiela, Germany

Economist, banker, supporter of TAU in Germany and longtime Treasurer of the TAU German Friends Association



annual prizes

• **Hugo Ramniceanu Prize in Economics** – Bruno Landesberg, Chairman, Sano – Bruno's Enterprises Ltd., for his leadership of one of Israel's largest manufacturing concerns and his contribution to the State's development. • **Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences** – Prof. John F. Hartwig, University of Illinois, Urbana, and Prof. Christopher C. Cummins, MIT, for their seminal contributions to chemistry in the field of "metals in synthesis." • **Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics** – Prof. Frank Jülicher, Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, Dresden, and Prof. Clare M. Waterman-Storer, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, for their groundbreaking contributions in the field of "biophysics of molecular and cell dynamics." • **Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education** – Danziger High School, Kiryat Shmona, and Shaar Hanegav High School, Sderot, for their steadfastness at the frontline of Israel's conflict zones. • **Max Perlman Award for Excellence in Global Business** – Yehuda Zisapel, President of the Rad Bynet Group, and his brother Zohar Zisapel, Chairman of Rad Data Communications Ltd., for advancing Israel's standing in the global business and high-tech arena. • **Adler Prize for Child Welfare and Protection** – Mentoring Program – "Girls Helping Girls," for its exceptional contribution to the development and welfare of young women.

Bringing Ethiopian Youth into the Fold

Studies show a growing disparity in opportunities between Israel's Ethiopian Jews and other groups. TAU is helping reduce this gap through the new **Tauber Initiative for the Advancement of Ethiopian Youth** – an umbrella framework dedicated to identifying Ethiopian youth with academic potential, boosting their self-confidence, and increasing their accessibility to higher education.

The initiative, established by Joel D. Tauber of Detroit, USA, a TAU honorary doctor and former Chairman of the TAU American Council, provides a continuous learning and enrichment package for hundreds of Ethiopian-Israeli children. Support begins in 7th grade, continues through high school and college preparation, and ends with scholarships and other forms of support for the duration of university studies.

A committed philanthropist who has held numerous leadership posts in major Jewish-American organizations, Tauber has helped raise \$1 billion to bring Diaspora Jews to Israel.

"I was present in 1992 when 14,000 Ethiopian Jews came to Israel in one single weekend and that event inspired me to commit myself with a passion to the Ethiopian cause," said Tauber at the inauguration ceremony, which was attended by his wife Shelley, son Brian, and daughters Julie and Ellen. Julie will be following the progress of the initiative

on behalf of the family.

Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski said: "Tauber's vision was not only to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel, but to see that they are well absorbed. 107,000 Ethiopian Jews came to Israel with nothing. There is a huge gap. For every little step we are making they have to make ten."

The Tauber Initiative expands upon existing TAU programs and introduces new ones. Ongoing programs are "Thinking Science," a community-based scientific enrichment program for junior high pupils, and *Admas* (Amharic for "horizon") – a program providing financial, academic and emotional support for those Ethiopian stu-



with his seven siblings after two unsuccessful attempts to reach Israel via Sudan, said that despite the hardships faced by Ethiopian immigrants when they arrive in Israel, it is their parents' dream to give

their children an education. Siym, who mentors other Ethiopian students at TAU, is one of 70 or so students this year receiving financial, social and academic support.

Three units at the Ziegler Student

Services Division – Student Welfare, Social Involvement and Educational Counseling, and the Unit for Science Oriented Youth at the Constantiner School of Education run the various programs together with municipal and business partners.

"Before I joined this project I didn't think I could succeed here in Israel because I'm an Ethiopian. This project is helping me believe in my ability to make my dream of becoming a doctor come true. I want to thank those who gave us this opportunity and I promise we will make the best possible use of it."

Ethiopia Beyna, participant in the Tauber Initiative

dents admitted to TAU. New programs are "Sparks of Science" – university based scientific courses and familiarization with higher education for Ethiopian high school pupils, and "Reach Higher" – a preparatory program for university entrance.

Second-year chemistry student Yalfal Siym, who immigrated to Israel in 1991

From left: Joel and Shelley Tauber and their children, Brian, Julie and Ellen. Opposite: TAU's new wave ladder

Honoring TAU's North American Benefactors

The Tauber family dedicated the **Shelley and Joel Tauber Family American Honor Plaza** as a tribute to five decades of generous American support for TAU.

Then President Itamar Rabinovich noted that North American donations to TAU had risen to \$25 million this past year. "American philanthropy has made a critical contribution to the development of the State of Israel," he said.

Chairman of the TAU American Council Robert Schraye praised the Taubers for their "inspired, generous and committed involvement with TAU and other Jewish organizations."

Located at the entrance to the Alfred Guttmann Administration Building, the plaza features one of the world's largest wave ladders. The 52-foot high ladder is supported by three aluminum poles. It was created by TAU architect Yoram Eldan and designer Hanan Delanger and built by TAU's Construction and Maintenance Division, headed by Ofer Lugassi.



Israelis are increasingly supporting major projects at TAU as a way of effecting social change

Traditionally Israel has been on the receiving end of largesse from Jewish supporters around the world. What is perhaps less known is that giving by Israelis to Israelis has dramatically risen over the last 20 years. Today, Israel has over 36,000 registered local charities and volunteering organizations and that number is still rising.

The country's universities, as well, have always attracted Israeli donors; some of the most impressive buildings at Tel Aviv University were paid for by residents of Israel. Since the early 1990s, however, Israeli donations to the university have shot up and consistently remained in the number two spot after the United States – averaging \$7.3 million a year from 2001 to 2006 and rising to nearly \$11 million in 2006. American donations in the same period averaged \$18.8 million per year.

"Israelis are realizing that giving to the university has a direct impact on areas close to their hearts," says Sigal Adar, Executive Director of TAU's Israeli Friends Association, who notes that TAU inaugurated several major Israeli-funded projects this year.

Concern for the environment, for example, prompted real estate magnate and TAU lay leader Alfred Akirov to found an institute for its study at TAU. "Today, wealthy and successful Israelis recognize that the source for society's progress can be achieved by training leaders in the academic, public and private sectors to guide the state toward outstanding achievements," says Akirov.

TAU alumnus Avi Fischer, founder of a center for studying regulatory issues, sees giving to the university and the educational system as a way of strengthening Israeli solidarity. The Second Lebanon War was a "wake-up call" to prosperous Israelis, he says. "We realized that whatever we had done in charitable and corporate responsibility activity was not enough."

Social concerns are motivating some Israeli donors to become personally involved in projects they establish at the university. Alona Barkat, wife of high-tech entrepreneur Eli Barkat, serves as chairperson of an institute the couple founded at TAU for researching the convergence of technology and society. The Barkats are concerned about Israel's lack of long-range planning and believe the TAU institute can act as a springboard for a more promising national leadership.

The belief that higher education holds the key to social change is shared by Dov Lautman, Chairman of TAU's Executive Council and a 2007 Israel Prize laureate. "It's important that the higher education system understand that it's not just creating and passing on knowledge, but that it must be involved in instilling values," says Lautman, who supports programs for outstanding students at TAU, among other projects.

The growth in Israeli giving has been paralleled by a rise in alumni involvement across the campus. This is in line with TAU President Zvi Galil's plans for expanding the university's alumni connections. "Well placed graduates can become a source of guidance and support through alumni groups and by serving on the boards of directors of our programs," says Prof. Galil.

Some alumni who make good welcome the chance to, as Avi Fischer puts it, "pay back some of their debt to the institution. TAU is the well that I drank from," he says.

Greening Israel's Business Environment

The **Alfred Akirov – ALROV Institute for Business and Environment**, founded by TAU honorary doctor, Executive Council member and President of the Israeli Friends Association Alfred Akirov, aims to incorporate environmental thinking into Israel's commercial and business sector. The institute operates under the auspices of the Faculty of Management—Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration and the Porter School of Environmental Studies in cooperation with TAU's Berglas School of Economics and Buchmann Faculty of Law.

"Within the business community there is a growing awareness that ecological thinking and business thinking are not contradictory, but rather complementary," Akirov said at the institute's gala inaugural ceremony. Akirov speaks from experience as one of Israel's largest real estate developers who has spearheaded some of the most successful and architecturally compelling construction projects in the country.

Institute Head Prof. Yehuda Kahane notes that while most Israeli companies



President of the Israeli Friends Association
Alfred Akirov

still take a guarded approach toward "green economics" for fear of it negatively affecting their profits, "more and more companies around the world are striving to minimize their 'ecological footprint.' Israeli companies must recognize this trend and factor it into their business plans," said Kahane.

Architect Moshe Safdie spoke at the inauguration on "Sustainable Design: Transcending the Market Place."

Creating a Transparent Economy

The Enron collapse in 2001 together with other corporate malpractices has led to new measures for corporate governance in the US and other countries. In Israel, where rapid economic growth has outpaced regulations in the legal and financial sectors, such measures are crucial for enabling a transparent, non-discriminatory environment for domestic and foreign investment.

TAU's new **Fischer Center for Corporate Governance and Capital Markets Regulation** creates the first framework for dialogue between academia and the legal, government and business communities on regulatory matters.

Center founder Avi Fischer, Chairman of Clal Industries and Investments and Deputy Chairman of the IDB Group, said, "For Israel's economy to remain successful and durable, we need a clean-cut legal and accountancy system. I hope this center will provide legislators, judges, accountants, lawyers and business people with advice and academic data that will help us to maintain the progress

Placing Technology in the Service of Society

The **BRM Institute of Technology and Society** at TAU's Faculty of Management—Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration, is a new type of social think tank devoted to interdisciplinary academic studies that will help policy makers make informed decisions on pressing issues facing Israeli society.

The institute was founded by Israeli high tech investor Eli Barkat and his wife

"The focus of the institute is to research the convergence of technology, economics and society with respect to the question of fundamental human and social values," Alona Barkat said at the inaugural ceremony. "We are doing this by linking business people and policy makers with academia."

The institute, which is directed by Prof. Asher Tishler of the Faculty of Management, operates in four main ar-



Chairman of the Board of Governors Robert Goldberg (center) with Alona and Eli Barkat

Alona in cooperation with TAU and the Sacta-Rashi Foundation. Eli Barkat is CEO of BRM Capital, and Alona, who serves as the TAU institute's chairperson, is involved in the Israel Venture Network (IVN), a group of Israeli entrepreneurs dedicated to venture philanthropy.

eas: philanthropy and non-profit organizations; R&D in Israel; E-governance; and environmental and urban planning. Attorneys Hanina Brandeis and Avi Bashar took an active role in establishing the institute.



From left: Avi Fischer, his father Isachar, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich and Fischer's mother Batya

of Israel's economy and public markets for years," he said.

Fischer founded the center to honor his parents, Batya and Isachar Fischer, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his father's law firm. He praised his parents as "Holocaust survivors who, despite losing all their assets, put a premium on education above all else."

Attending were leading figures from the corporate and legal world including Fischer's partner Nochi Dankner, Chairman and CEO of the IDB Group,

a business conglomerate that has pledged nearly \$25 million to rebuild and strengthen communities in the north of the country that were adversely affected by the Second Lebanon War.

Guest speaker was David Fox of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Director of the Center is Vice Dean of Law Prof. Omri Yadlin.

Honor Wall: A Source of Beauty and Pride

In a project that was two years in the making and involved hundreds of new and veteran supporters, TAU's **Jubilee Honor Wall** was unveiled at the 2007 meeting of the Board of Governors. The event marked the successful completion of the university's 50th Jubilee fundraising campaign and gave prominent recognition, through engraved names, to the distinguished roster of campaign contributors.

On the wall appear the following words: "Tel Aviv University pays tribute to the donors who have given generously in honor of the university's 50th anniversary (1956-2006). Their vision and commitment, together with that of TAU's worldwide family of supporters during 50 years, have made possible the university's transformation into Israel's largest and most prominent university, renowned for its teaching and research, outstanding graduates and active involvement in society and public life."

The Honor Wall is located in one of the most attractive and central areas on campus, the Aviva and Urs Felber Jubilee Plaza, which was unveiled in 2006 as one of the highlights of the Jubilee celebrations. The wall is made of stone plates arranged in a semi-circular shape; affixed to the stones are glass plates where the donor names appear, categorized according to the size of the donation.

"We are privileged to have such committed supporters and the opportunity to honor them in such a special way," said outgoing President Itamar Rabinovich, who noted that campaign funding was primarily geared toward research and young faculty recruitment.



The Trombone Quartet of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at the unveiling

French Friends Support TAU Student-Soldiers

Classrooms in memory of TAU's fallen soldiers of the Second Lebanon War were dedicated by the **French Friends Association of TAU**. The classrooms were named for each of the four students in their home units: **Ziv Balali**, Department of Middle Eastern and African Studies, Entin Faculty of Humanities; **Noam Goldman**, Department of Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Management—Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration; **Nisan Shalev**, Department of Industrial Engineering, Fleischman Faculty of Engineering; and **Liran Sa'adiah**, Summer Youth University, Unit for Science Oriented Youth of the Constantiner School of Education.

The French Friends Association has also established a fund to support students who served in combat duty during the war as well as those from northern Israel whose studies were disrupted by the war. The fund provides tuition scholarships and other financial assistance, psychological counseling and academic tutoring.



From left: President of the French Friends Association François Heilbronn, Alain Madar, Vice President Yehiel Ben-Zvi, Rector Dany Leviatan and Michael Benabou.

Gaining Better Understanding of Addictive Diseases

The first center of its kind in Israel dedicated to curing addictive diseases by uncovering their biological mechanisms was established at TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine. **The Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Center for the Biology of Addictive Diseases** was founded by addiction researcher and clinician Dr. Miriam Adelson and her husband Sheldon G. Adelson, both TAU honorary doctors.

The center is aimed at developing new medications and therapies for treating addictive diseases and influencing policy decisions on the treatment of such diseases.

Dr. Adelson said at the inauguration ceremony, "As a physician working in emergency rooms I became aware that people suffering from drug addiction are treated unfairly. Addiction is a brain disease with psycho-social ramifications that society must address properly."

The Adelsons are major benefactors of TAU and the founders of both a graduate school in medicine and a chair in the biology of addictive diseases at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, where Dr. Adelson earned her MD degree. Since 1986, she has devoted her time to researching and treating drug abuse and the biology of addictive diseases, including establishing drug clinics in Las Vegas, where the Adelsons live, and at the TAU-affiliated Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

Sheldon G. Adelson is Chairman of the Board and principal owner of Las Vegas Sands Corp. He has had a six-decade career in the US and Asia as an entrepreneur and venture capitalist. The Adelsons are well-known in the philanthropic world for their extensive support of Jewish and other causes throughout the US and Israel.

The founding Director of the Adelson Center is Prof. Zvi Vogel of the Weizmann Institute of Science. In addition, the center will receive the guidance of Dr. Adelson's scientific mentor, Prof. Mary Jeanne Kreek, Head of the Laboratory of the Biology of Addictive Diseases at Rockefeller University Hospital, New York, and a 2007 TAU Honorary Doctor.



Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson

Using Plant Resources Well and Wisely

Plant scientists have a deep-down interest in feeding the world's hungry, and TAU's **Manna Center for Plant Biosciences** provides an advanced, multi-disciplinary framework for researching new methods of agricultural production. Yet enhancing nutritional content and crop yields is not enough; the center also emphasizes the need to investigate the ethical, social, health and ecological aspects of emerging plant technologies, and to share this information with the academic community, policy makers and the general public.

Director of the center Prof. Bernard (Baruch) Epel told audience members at the inauguration of the center that the donor "is passionate about educating people about the ethical consequences of biological sciences in general and plant sciences in particular." This led to the introduction of a yearly bioethics course at TAU, the first in Israel, as well as international symposia on the issue.



Prof. Baruch Epel

"Getting out of the tower and communicating facts and findings" is one of the advantages of frameworks such as the Manna Center, added Prof. Danny Chamovitz, Chairman of the Department of Plant Sciences at the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, where the center is based.

The donor upgraded the existing Manna Institute, established in 2000, into a center this year. The additional funding is being used to build a new Plant Growth and Analysis Facility, renovate greenhouses, and support the regular activities of the center, such as holding conferences and allocating research and travel fellowships. Research projects coordinated by the center range from creating sustainable food, fuel and fiber supplies to monitoring the effects of global climate change on plants.

A symposium on renewable energy entitled, "Bio-fuels: Scientific, Ethical and Economic Challenges," was held in honor of the occasion. Keynote speaker was Israel Klabin, president of the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development and former mayor of Rio de Janeiro, who spoke on "The New Emerging Biomass Economy."

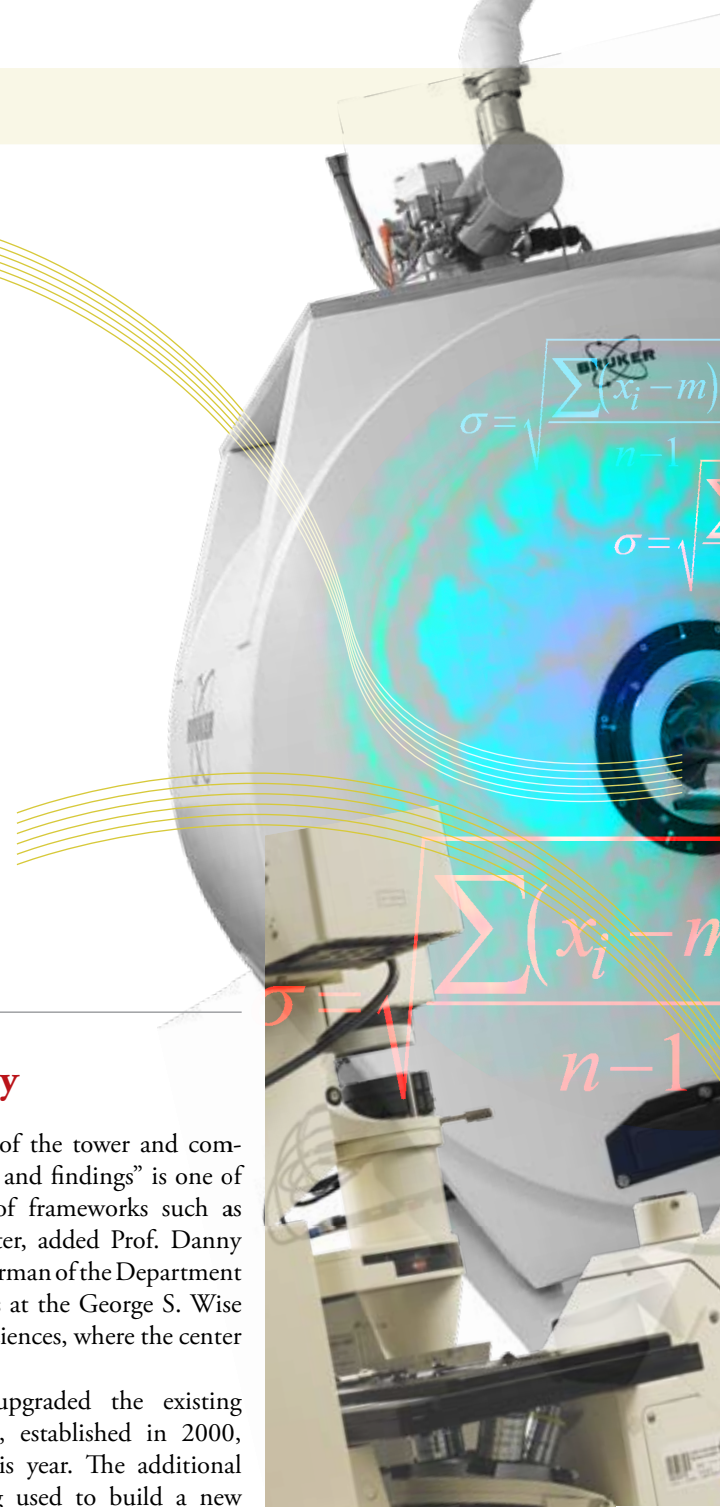


Israel Klabin

Pioneering Futuristic Nano Materials

The inauguration of the new **Chaoul Center for Nanoscale Materials and Systems** marked another milestone in the ongoing development of TAU's burgeoning "nano-culture." Established in honor of Fred Chaoul, a TAU honorary doctor and longstanding supporter of the university, the center will focus on understanding and manipulating nanoscale materials (one nanometer = one millionth of a millimeter) into functional systems that could have applications in medicine, industry, defense and protection of the environment. Examples include "nanobots" that could seek out and destroy diseased cells in the body, and materials that could dramatically enhance the use of solar energy and water desalination.

The center will promote and support multidisciplinary research in engineering, life sciences, medicine and exact sciences, providing over 40 research groups across campus with the intellectual framework and physical facilities vital for nurturing leading-edge nano research.





Greening Israel's Architecture

TAU recognized **Dame Shirley Porter**, founder of the **Porter School for Environmental Studies**, for her additional gift toward erecting an environmentally-friendly "green" building on campus, and for the school's immense contribution to environmental research and activism in Israel and abroad. The building will serve as a permanent home for the school and as a model for environmentally-sound building design.

The certificate of recognition was presented at a symposium organized by the Porter School on "Solar Energy and Green Architecture in Israel," featuring guest speakers Dr. Sarah Kurtz, a



Dame Shirley Porter

2007 Dan David laureate and pioneer in solar energy, and architect Rafi Rich, Chairman of the Forum for Environment & Community of the Israeli Architecture Association.

"The Porter School's green building will stand as a symbol for Israel's desire to better the environment," said Dame Shirley, who is a long-time TAU benefactor, at the event.

Fred Chaoul was born in Bulgaria, arrived as an infant with his family to Palestine to escape the Holocaust, and eventually settled in Argentina in 1959. Today he is one of the world's foremost leather manufacturers and a dedicated supporter of Jewish organizations in Argentina and Israel.

Chaoul Center Director Prof. Ori Cheshnovsky, who also heads the TAU Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, said, "Many of us believe that in nanotechnology lies the solution to energy shortage, to fighting disease and aging, and to other impor-

tant issues for the human race." Research supported by the new center will have an impact on virtually all technological sectors – health, information, energy, materials, food and water, he said.

The keynote speaker was Avi Fischer, Chairman of Clal Industries and Investments Ltd., deputy chairman of the IDB Group and founder of TAU's Batya and Isachar Fischer Center for Corporate Governance and Capital Market Regulation. He spoke on *Nanotechnology – Israel's Next Growth Engine*. Also present at the ceremony were family and friends of the Chaoul family.



Mirtha and Fred Chaoul (back row, center) with family members

Charlotte Strauss (right) with her son Guillermo and daughter Mariana



Applying Computational Tools to Brain Studies

At TAU and its affiliated medical centers, over 20 research groups in fields ranging from chemistry to pharmacology, and from engineering to psychology, are visualizing and mapping brain function in MRI laboratories. MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) allows scientists to view entire neural systems and thereby significantly deepen their understanding of the structure and workings of the brain.

To realize the full potential of these studies, the University dedicated the new **Alfredo Federico Strauss Center for Computational Neuro-Imaging**. Findings at the center are expected to enhance diagnostic methods and future drugs for complex diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis; stroke and head trauma; brain cancer; and visual and motion impairment.

Prof. Yoel Kloog, Dean of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, warmly thanked Charlotte Strauss and the children, Guillermo and Mariana, for establishing the center, noting that it was "highly timely." He explained that, as vast amounts of data accumulate from neuro-imaging experiments at TAU and elsewhere, computational solutions are vitally needed to analyze and understand the data.

The work of about 60 master's and doctoral students at TAU is directly related to MRI studies of the brain, and that number is projected to grow to 100, Kloog added.

Guillermo Strauss, a member of the TAU Board of Governors, spoke on behalf of the family at the inauguration of the center. He expressed gratitude that the important scientific advances of the center would be associated with the name of his late father, Alfredo Federico Strauss.

The director of the Strauss Center is Prof. Yoram Cohen of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Chemistry, the driving force behind TAU's augmenting its neuro-imaging resources together with Dr. Yaniv Asaf of Life Sciences.

Enabling Advanced Chemistry Studies

Mark A. Ratner, TAU Governor, Morrison Professor in Chemistry at Northwestern University and member of the US National Academy of Sciences, believes in the high quality of TAU research. So much so that he and his family endowed the **Chair for the Study of Chemistry** at TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences.

For Prof. Ratner, establishing the chair culminates a friendship with TAU that began in 1967 and was strengthened over the years through close academic and personal ties with Prof. Abraham Nitzan, incumbent of TAU's Kodesz Chair of Chemical Dynamics. "TAU has been so important to me for so long," Prof. Ratner said at the chair's inauguration.

Credited as the father of molecular-scale electronics, Prof. Ratner "is himself a great scientist, which makes this chair all the more special," said the Dean of Exact Sciences, Prof. Haim Wolfson.

The first incumbent of the chair is Prof. Aviv Amirav, an internationally-recognized innovator in the development of analytical instrumentation, which he describes as "the enabling science." He holds 15 patents in 58 countries aimed at improving methods and devices for environmental (air, water and soil), food, medical, fuel and forensic analysis. During Prof. Amirav's incumbency the chair will be named the Chair in Analytical Chemistry.



From left: Prof. Aviv Amirav, Prof. Mark Ratner and Prof. Abraham Nitzan

New projects in law put TAU at the forefront of legal research

Top Legal Minds Converge at New TAU Center

In a significant step toward "academizing" the Israeli legal system, the **Center for Advanced Legal Studies** was inaugurated at TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law. The center, the Faculty's flagship project, aims to advance and internationalize legal research in Israel.

The center was established by donors in Israel and abroad, among them TAU alumni and other individuals and groups committed to enhancing Israeli society.

The center will award generous fellowships to talented master's and doctoral students, enabling them to fully devote themselves to their research. This will better position TAU to compete with the attractive financial incentives offered to outstanding young scholars by wealthier universities abroad, thus helping battle "brain drain" out of Israel.

To ensure its students are exposed to some of the world's best legal minds, the center has already recruited 19 senior visiting professors from universities including Yale, NYU, Berkeley and Toronto. A number of students at the center will spend one semester at either Harvard or Yale.

Prof. Hanoch Dagan, TAU Dean of Law and initiator of the center, said, "We are confident that the center will become an academic incubator for new generations of Israeli attorneys, judges, government advisers, community advocates, business leaders and scholars."

Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Supreme Court Justice Esther Hayut, the first TAU law graduate to be appointed to the Israeli Supreme Court.

The center is largely funded by the Zvi and Ofra Meitar Family Fund, the DeLeon Foundation (via trustee Meir Linzen), Francis and Marie France Minkoff and the IDB Fund for the Community. Additional benefactors include Tamar and Eric Goldstein, John Landerer, Michael Biron-Cegla, Stephen Siderow and Zionism 2000 for Social Responsibility, as well as Israeli and overseas law firms: Meitar, Liquornik, Geva & Leshem Brandwein; Herzog, Fox & Neeman; Naschitz Brandes & Co.; Kantor, Elhanani, Tal & Co.; Yigal Arnon & Co.; Mishcon De Reya Solicitors; and Baratz, Horn & Co.

Balancing Security Needs with Civil Liberties

With the rise in global terrorism, liberal democracies are striving to find the proper balance between the need to maintain security and the obligation to safeguard human rights. The new **Stewart and Judy Colton Chair in Law and Security** inaugurated at TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law is the first research chair in Israel to address issues in the area of law and security that fall outside the traditional definitions of crime and war. Topics covered include anti-incitement law, profiling, immigration policies, preventive detentions, interrogation methods, privacy in the age of surveillance and more.

The chair was established by Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors and TAU honorary doctor Stewart Colton and his wife Judy. Longtime benefactors of TAU, the Coltons already support doctoral fellowships and emerging technologies. "We've been coming here for 20 years and each time we tour the campus we are overcome with pride at what is being accomplished here," said Stewart Colton at the inaugural ceremony.

The chair will conduct interdisciplinary research combining theory and practice in the areas of constitutional, administrative, criminal and international law, and will address institutional questions such as the division of powers between the executive and legislative branches and the special limits of judicial review in security matters.

Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez, the chair's incumbent and a former Colton doctoral fellow, said the chair would "promote the study of current day challenges in the area of law and security with an emphasis on the special threats and problems posed by terrorism and the need to cope with them in a manner that safeguards the spirit of our democratic society."



Dean of Law
Hanoch Dagan



Judy and Stewart Colton with Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez (center)

Australia

✳ In Sydney, TAU governor John J. Landerer, AM, CBE, was recognized for his contribution to the new



Center for Advanced Legal Studies at TAU. Fellow governor and TAU honorary doctor Joseph Brender AO (pictured above) received the certificate on Landerer's behalf. In Melbourne, prospective friends were hosted by Vice President of the Victoria Chapter Dr. Victor Wayne and his wife Dr. Karen Wayne.



Mr. Phil Wilson and Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron

Canada

✳ TAU governor and honorary doctor Norma Cummings hosted a cocktail reception in Montreal in honor of Judge Barbara Seal,



Mrs. Norma Cummings (left) with Judge Barbara Seal

National President of the Canadian Friends Association and the recipient of a 2007 TAU honorary doctorate. More than 100 guests, including many community leaders, heard guest speaker Annie Elliot of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus.

France

✳ In two separate events, the publication of the first French guidebook on Tel Aviv was celebrated at a French Friends gathering hosted by Armand Stemmer; and a lecture on the Six-Day War was given by Dr. Denis Charbit of TAU's French Department in the home of Odile and Michel Cohen.

Israel

✳ Members of the Business Club of the Israeli Friends Association and of the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce met with the Secretary of State of Texas, Phil Wilson, to discuss economic cooperation between the State of Texas and Israeli companies. Representing TAU was Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron, Vice President for Research and Development.

USA

✳ National: More than 200 people attended an AFTAU reception in New York City to bid farewell to TAU President Itamar Rabinovich. Honorary Chairman of the university's Board of Governors, Dr. Raymond R. Sackler, announced the establishment in Prof. Rabinovich's honor of a Program for the Study of Contemporary Middle Eastern Affairs at TAU's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. At the event, two executives of the Sackler School of Medicine's New York State/American Program, Howard R. Udell, General Counsel, and Marcia



Prof. Rabinovich (left) receives a certificate from Dr. Sackler

Warner, Executive Director, received the 2007 President's Award for their long and distinguished service to the program.

✳ **Southeast Region:** Shulamit and Chaim Katzman, Florida Chairman of AFTAU, along with Robert Goldberg, Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors, hosted an event in honor of Prof. Rabinovich and Prof. Zvi Galil.

✳ **Western Region:** Prof. Rabinovich hosted a special luncheon honoring TAU governor and honorary doctor Max Webb on his 90th birthday along with his wife Anna Webb, and former Chairman of the Western Region Jona Goldrich.