Israel is failing on the public relations battlefield, and increasing anti-Israeli sentiment is leading to cultural, academic and commercial boycotts. The growing threat to Israel’s legitimacy was the focus of this year’s Annual John Gandel Symposium, hosted by the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and founded by John Gandel of Australia, TAU governor and honorary doctor.

The symposium brought together three leading scholars and diplomats: Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University, world-renowned lawyer, human rights advocate and 2010 TAU honorary doctor; Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, former Israeli Ambassador to Washington and a past TAU President; and Daniel Taub, Principle Deputy Legal Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Wexner Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The symposium was moderated by incoming Dean of Humanities and then director of the Dayan Center, Prof. Eyal Zisser.

According to Prof. Dershowitz, Israel should fight back against the growing tendency of European countries to threaten prosecution of Israeli politicians and military personnel as war criminals, which he identifies as “guerilla lawfare” against Israel. “We have to regain the initiative and retake the narrative,” he said. “The Israeli government should file a lawsuit in the courts of England seeking to make sure that these forms of universal jurisdiction cannot continue to be abused. Israel has to fight back in every international forum available to it,” said Dershowitz.

“We have to regain the initiative and retake the narrative”

Two points that the speakers identified as critical for Israel were appealing to the political center and empowering advocates for Israel to speak up and make their opinions known. “The message is spreading that there is something illegitimate about Israel and Israelis,” said Prof. Rabinovich. “What we want to win is the center of the intelligentsia, media and public opinion around the world.” He suggested better public speaking training for those who represent Israel, and said that resuming a stalled peace process is crucial to defending Israel’s position.

On the subject of peace, Taub discussed the need to help create a positive Palestinian national identity. “The Palestinian national identity is predicated on martyrdom. Only if there is a positive yes out there can the Palestinians say no to the negative aspects of their identity,” he said.

Prof. Dershowitz emphasized the responsibility of pro-Israeli professors around the world to publicly defend Israel, while Taub recognized the need to reach out and build alliances with Diaspora Jews who are either ignorant of the situation in Israel or fearful of speaking up in their communities. Speakers stressed the need for Israel to rise above attempts to delegitimize the country by vigilant self-evaluation and upholding the highest human rights standards.

Message from the President

Dear Governors and Friends,

Our 2010 Board of Governors meeting, my first as president, was by all accounts a success. We worked hard to ensure that Board activities struck just the right balance between working sessions, intellectual content and sociability. I was proud of our scientists and students who gave fascinating research presentations; both as researchers and as human beings, they epitomize the top-notch level of the University.

At the Board we grappled with university governance issues and emerged with a revised constitution (see page 2 for story). Board members also took part in an open debate about faculty who are involved in efforts to have Israeli universities boycotted.

I enjoyed the chance to meet many governors and supporters for the first time, during the Board, and to host them on campus. Since then, I’ve had a chance to reciprocate the visit in some of our friends’ home communities and I look forward to many more such visits this coming year.

Sincerely,
Professor Joseph Klafter
TAU President
The 2010 Board of Governors meeting ushered in a new era for Tel Aviv University governance, with a large majority of governors approving revisions to the TAU Constitution at the opening plenary session on May 9th. We spoke to Robert Goldberg, outgoing Chairman of the Board, about the significance of the reform.

**What was the purpose of the revisions?**
Mainly to create a system of checks and balances between the Board of Governors and the Executive Council.

**What were the main changes?**
The most important one was that the TAU Board of Governors was reinstated as the highest authority of the University. That status had been eroded over the last few years, but we managed to reverse this trend.

The other big change can be summarized as better representation. Two members of the Board, to be appointed by a new Board committee called the “Standing Committee,” will now be included among the seven public representatives in the Executive Council. Additionally, two Board members will likewise be appointed to the Search Committee for the remaining five public representatives for the Council. When it comes to the removal of Executive Council members, both the Board and Senate now have roles, and the procedures and grounds for dismissal have been better defined.

In addition, the Senate now has greater powers to decide on academic matters and, in certain instances, it will have the final word.

**How were these changes decided?**
All the changes pertaining to the Board of Governors and the Executive Council were based on a memorandum of understanding signed last December between myself and Dr. Leora Meridor, the Chair of the Executive Council. Additional changes relating to the Senate, President and Rector were recommended by an ad-hoc committee appointed by the TAU President, Prof. Joseph Klafter, and made up of Prof. Ori Cheshnovsky, Mrs. Raya Jaglom, Dr. Yehoshua (Shuki) Gleitman and Prof. Ina Wiener. We were lucky to get the help of TAU Governor Marshall Polk, the AFTAU Board Secretary, and his international committee in fine-tuning the amendments in time for the Board meeting.

**Are you satisfied with the reform?**
There’s room for improvement still. I’d like to see the Board and the Senate be able to present amendments to the TAU Constitution without the prior approval of the Executive Council. I’d also like to see the Board consulted when it comes to firing the university president.

But I think that, overall, the integrity of the TAU Board of Governors was restored. Trust and transparency were revitalized. The University leadership can move ahead now, with a sounder foundation underneath, to what’s most important to all of us who love TAU – and that’s supporting the faculty and students who make the University the excellent place it is.

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**TAU Constitutional Reform**

**Interview with Robert Goldberg**

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**Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry**

From a height of ten million prior to World War II, Jews in Europe and Russia number only one and a half million today. Despite its small size, however, the European Jewish community has been undergoing a remarkable revival since the 1990s in the cultural, political, intellectual and spiritual spheres.

This phenomenon is the focus of TAU’s new Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, founded by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress. The center’s mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research into the history, tradition and cultural legacy of contemporary European Jewry and endeavor to play a key role in strengthening the identity of Diaspora Jews in Europe.

Dr. Kantor, a scientist, businessman and philanthropist, has been instrumental in founding several programs dedicated to battling extremism and promoting tolerance in Europe, as well as strengthening European Jewish identity. His achievements were recognized by Tel Aviv University with an honorary doctorate in 2004.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said that the establishment of a research center on European Jewry at TAU, one of the few in the world, will contribute to the growing momentum in Europe to appreciate its rich Jewish past and rejuvenate Jewish culture. He praised Dr. Kantor for his commitment to Jewish community life in Russia and Europe.

Prof. Klafter announced that within the framework of the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism, the University was dedicating the Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism, the world’s most comprehensive collection on the subject and an invaluable resource for researchers.

Representing the European Union at the event was Spanish Ambassador to Israel Alvaro Iranzo. He said, “we must affirm the importance of the contribution of contemporary European Jewry to the Europe of the 21st century that we are building.”

The event, which was attended by 25 European ambassadors and heads of mission, as well as a delegation from the European Jewish Congress, featured a discussion on European Jewish history by TAU scholars Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Roth Institute and designated head of the Kantor Center, Dr. Raphael Vago and Dr. Havi Dreyfuss Ben-Sasson. Also participating were Dr. Kantor’s close advisor, Advocate Arie Zuckerman, and former TAU President and ambassador to the USA, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, who gave the keynote speech on “Why Europe?” in which he discussed Israel’s relations with the new European Union.
STEINHARDT NATIONAL COLLECTIONS OF NATURAL HISTORY

TAU Now on Global Biodiversity Map

In attendance was Binyamin Zeev (Benny) Begin, Minister without Portfolio, who thanked the Steinhardt family for their devotion to Israel and said he hoped the new facility would help children in Israel develop an appreciation for nature.

Other distinguished participants included Meir Sheetrit, Chair of the Knesset Science Committee; Prof. Menachem Yaari, President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, under whose auspices the Collections operate; and Prof. Jacob Ziv, past president of the Academy and TAU honorary doctor.

The Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History perpetuates the legacy of Prof. Heinrich Mendelssohn, one of the founding fathers of TAU and of conservation in Israel, whose estate contributed generously toward the building. The project is also supported by the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education; the Ministries of Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Rural Development, Tourism, and Science and Technology; the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality; and a private charitable foundation.

The project is recognized as a national research infrastructure by the National Council for Research and Development.

CONCERT FOR YEHIEL BEN-ZVI

Commemorating a University Champion

In one of the most moving events ever to take place on the TAU campus, over 1,000 members of the TAU community, including university leaders, governors, donors, faculty members and friends, gathered in the Miriam and Adolfo Smolarz Auditorium to attend a concert in memory of the University’s beloved late Vice President, Yehiel Ben-Zvi.

The concert was performed by the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Orchestra, a fitting homage to Yehiel, who played a central role in the school’s establishment.

The concert was held in the presence of the Ben-Zvi family, Yehiel’s partner, Bella Gerstel, and his dear friends Josef and Bareket Buchmann, founders of the Buchmann-Mehta School and Buchmann Faculty of Law and staunch TAU supporters.

“Yehiel,” wrote the Buchmans in the concert program, “connected worlds. He identified the most promising ideas of the finest minds on campus – and recruited the best people to bring these ideas to fruition.”

Eulogizing Yehiel were TAU President Joseph Klafter; Dean of the Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts, Prof. Hannah Naveh; Yehiel’s son, Daniel Ben-Zvi, on behalf of the family; longtime TAU governor and close friend Woolf Marmot; and Zubin Mehta, Honorary President of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, in a video message.

The cornerstone of a facility to house the Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History was laid at a ceremony led by Prof. Tamar Dayan of the Department of Zoology at the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences.

The event celebrated the generosity of former Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors Michael Steinhardt and his wife, Judy, major benefactors of the University. It also marked a milestone for TAU: the launch of a building project that will catapult the University into the center of international biodiversity studies and outreach.

The new facility will enable the preservation and research of the national collections of natural history, which comprise over four million specimens, including several species now extinct in Israel such as the crocodile, the last leopard from the Judean mountains and the best collection of Mediterranean deep sea fishes in the world. Not only will the collections be used by hundreds of scientists from Israel and abroad each year, but they will also be open to the public.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prof. Dayan thanked the Steinhardts for their vision and steadfastness in championing a dedicated building for natural history in Israel.

TAU President Joseph Klafter stressed that the cornerstone laying was “a vitally important step in preserving Israel’s natural heritage.”

Michael Steinhardt, legendary hedge fund founder and recipient of an honorary doctorate from TAU, called attention to the generations, “past, present and future, that will benefit from what is being done here.”

The facility will be combined with the adjacent I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research and the Botanic Gardens on the TAU campus to create the largest and most comprehensive center in Israel dedicated to the natural environment. Designed by the architectural firm Kimmel-Eshkolot, the 7,000 square meter (75,000 sq. ft.) building will include laboratories and an auditorium. Public exhibitions will make the collections an invaluable teaching tool.

The cornerstone of the building project was driven into the ground on the morning of July 27th.

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The project is recognized as a national research infrastructure by the National Council for Research and Development.
The children and friends of the late President and founding father of the French Friends Association, Hugo Ramniceanu, joined together to dedicate a scholarship fund in his memory and that of his late wife Valerie. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Ramniceanus’ daughter, Monique Barel, and her husband, Sylvain; the Ramniceanus’ son, Gerald Ramniceanu, and his wife, Michele; and friend of the family and active member of the French Friends, David Birène.

Prof. Francois Heilbronn, President of the French Friends, paid tribute to Ramniceanu as a highly active businessman whose love affair with TAU lasted over 20 years and resulted in the well-known Ramniceanu Gate, one of the most popular gateways to the campus, as well as the Hugo Ramniceanu Prize in Economics, awarded annually to a distinguished Israeli businessperson.

Monique Barel noted that her father “recognized early on that economics was what made this country move so quickly.” Her parents had been married for 65 years, she said, and she spoke fondly of the important role her mother played in supporting her father’s generosity.

The ceremony was attended by close friends of the Ramniceanus. Prominent TAU economist Prof. Leo Leiderman spoke on the financial crises facing the world economy.
**Ron Arad, England, Israel**
Prize-winning architect, designer, educator, innovator of new design conventions and materials, and leader in the international arts scene.

**Prof. Alan Dershowitz, USA**
Distinguished legal scholar, world authority on criminal law, tireless advocate of civil liberties and human rights, educator, and true champion of the State of Israel in the international arena.

**Evgenia Dodina, Israel**
Prize-winning actress, stage and film artist, co-founder of the award-winning Gesher Theater, virtuoso performer and company member of the Habima Theater.

**Shlomo Eliahu, Israel**
Entrepreneur, guiding light of Israel’s insurance and banking sectors, former Member of Knesset, dedicated TAU governor and supporter of scholarships at the University.

**Prof. Marc Feldman, USA**
Scientist, educator, trailblazer in the research of the human genome and human evolution, and promoter of scientific excellence in Israel and at Tel Aviv University.

**S. Lee Kohrman, USA**
Prominent lawyer, Jewish community leader, patron of social and educational projects in Israel and the American Jewish community, and supporter of genetics research through the David and Inez Myers Foundation.

**Adv. Zvi Meitar, England**
Distinguished jurist, lawyer, past President of the Israeli Law Society, businessman, visionary promoter of cultural, historical and educational projects, and benefactor of advanced legal studies and scholarships at Tel Aviv University.

**Prof. Erwin Neher, Germany**
Nobel Prize laureate, father of modern biophysics and cellular neuroscience, major contributor to medical advancement and teaching, and promoter of strong scientific ties between Germany and Israel.

**Irwin M. Jacobs, USA**
Global telecommunications industry leader, inventor, winner of the National Medal of Technology Award bestowed by the President of the United States, promoter of corporate responsibility and supporter of cultural, scientific, community and educational institutions in California, Israel and worldwide.

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Prof. Alan Dershowitz:
“TAU is the Harvard of the Middle East”

Excerpts from the speech of Prof. Alan Dershowitz, responding on behalf of the honorary degree recipients:

“No country in the history of the world has ever contributed more to humankind and accomplished more for its people in so brief a period of time as Israel has done. Israel exports more life-saving medical technology per capita than any other nation in the world, and ranks among the top two or three in absolute terms.

At the center of these contributions to the world are Israel’s great research universities, and at the center of these is Tel Aviv University. The publications, awards and recognition of its faculty rival the best faculties in the world. I am tempted to say that Tel Aviv has become the Harvard of the Middle East… I can think of no university in the world that has achieved so much in so short a period of time as has the great university that has honored us tonight.”

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**2010 Honorees**
TAU bestowed nine honorary doctorates on individuals with outstanding achievements in the arts, science and business spheres
Recognizing True Innovators

This year’s Dan David Prize winners have all made paradigm-changing contributions to humankind

one of the world’s most prestigious international monetary prizes. As in past years, the laureates donate ten percent of their prize money toward scholarships for outstanding doctoral and post-doctoral students at TAU and from around the world.

Guest of honor at the ceremony was Isaac Herzog, Minister of Welfare and Social Services, who said that Dan David’s vision in establishing the prize embodied the spirit of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement that led to the creation of the State of Israel. “Herzl envisioned and laid down the guidelines for the Jewish homeland to become the beacon of humankind. Dan David exemplifies this vision,” he said.

TAU President and Dan David Prize Chairman Prof. Joseph Klafter said that the Prize and Tel Aviv University are linked in their search for innovators and path breakers – exceptionally gifted people who change paradigms in their fields. Turning to Dan David, Prof. Klafter said, “Dan, you yourself have been a paradigm changer, first by democratizing portrait photography, and then by launching several initiatives in Israel that reward uncompromising excellence.”

The award for President Napolitano was accepted on his behalf by the Ambassador of Italy to Israel, Luigi Mattiolo.

Events on campus surrounding the prize included a symposium with Atwood and Ghosh; a lecture by Ghosh on “Views of India – History, Ethnography and Fiction”; a symposium on computers and telecommunications with Professors Kleinrock and Rabin; and the annual Name Your Hero Essay Competition, in which high school pupils submit essays proposing candidates worthy of the Dan David Prize.

ADVOCATE MOSHE OSTER STUDENT DISCUSSION WING

For the Love of Law

A new wing that encourages animated discussion about the law was inaugurated in the library of the Buchmann Faculty of Law in memory of advocate Moshe Oster of Israel. Established by his widow, Mrs. Batya Oster, and dedicated in the presence of his family, the wing includes an attractively furnished lobby, up-to-date equipment, and four rooms that, for the first time, enable group study at the library.

Mrs. Oster, a long-time member of the Israeli Friends of Tel Aviv University, was lauded at the ceremony for “providing a pleasant and friendly space for students to exchange ideas and build up their skills as the next generation of lawyers in Israel.”

Prof. Hanoch Dagan, Dean of Law, said: “I am certain that our students will associate the name of the late Moshe Oster with the outstanding academic and social milieu of the faculty.” He thanked Mrs. Oster for her friendship, vision and generosity in supporting the project.

Moshe Oster (1924–2006) was born in Germany. In 1936 the family immigrated to Eretz Israel and met with financial hardship. After completing his army service, Oster worked as a clerk, but he always dreamed of studying law – a dream his wife, Batya, encouraged him to follow. He enrolled in law studies at TAU, finished his degree with distinction in 1962, and embarked on a distinguished career as an expert on labor law.

“Helping people fulfill their dreams is why the University is here,” said TAU President Joseph Klafter. “The wing in Moshe Oster’s name will perpetuate his love for and commitment to his profession.”

Mrs. Oster expressed her hope that, through the new wing, “students would respect the law and practice it with integrity – in the spirit of Moshe.”
In a step forward for social change in Israel, TAU’s Bob Shapell School of Social Work, Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences, celebrated the inauguration of the Mogulof Family Chair in Social Policy. Supported by Melvin and Milly Mogulof, distinguished academics and social workers, the chair will bridge between academic study and public responsibility, and foster outward-reaching research that will inform policy makers as well as third sector organizations.

Leading the ceremony was Prof. Tamnie Ronen-Rosenbaum, Head of the Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection and a former head of the Shapell School.

Both Mogulofs have had notable careers in the public sector, and have throughout their lives demonstrated a passion for Jewish learning and the State of Israel. Mel, who holds a PhD in social welfare, has worked for the Jewish Agency, the UJA Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in New York and on a social task force for US President Richard Nixon, among other significant posts. He described social policy as the “glue that holds society together. It helps those on the margins of society, helps people identify social problems. I am delighted to have the opportunity to dedicate this chair,” he said.

The ceremony included a lecture given by Prof. Idit Weiss of the Shapell School on “Contemporary Trends in the Israeli Welfare State.” Prof. Dany Leviatan, TAU Rector, Prof. Noah Lewinstein, Dean of Social Sciences, and Prof. Rivka Savaya, Head of the Shapell School, were also in attendance.

The family of the late Prof. Simon Igal Domberger (1949-2000) gathered at TAU to commemorate his memory through a research chair at TAU’s Faculty of Management—Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration. Domberger, who founded a new field of study in management known as innovative value creation, died from cancer at age 51 in Australia, where he was a professor at the University of Sydney’s Graduate School of Management. An international expert in the field of competitive tendering and contracting, Domberger pioneered the concept of outsourcing.

TAU President Joseph Klafter told the Domberger family that, through the chair, they were “paying tribute to Simon’s birthplace, to his distinguished academic career and to his commitment to research and teaching.”

The chair was donated by Prof. Domberger’s father, Joseph, and his wife, Jacqueline, who reside in Monaco and Germany. Mr. Domberger, a real estate developer, is an Honorary Life President of B’hai B’rith Europe and has been active for many years in the rebuilding of German-Jewish and Israeli post-war relations. He told the gathering that it was most fitting to commemorate his son’s memory at Tel Aviv University. “Simon was born in Tel Aviv, he taught as a visiting lecturer at TAU’s Faculty of Management and if we wished to commemorate his work for generations to come, it could only be here,” he said.

Also participating were Simon Domberger’s sister, Nava, and his son, Daniel, who eulogized him movingly; Dean of Management Prof. Asher Tischler; and the incumbent of the chair, Prof. Boaz Ronen.

School of Social Work Inaugurates First Academic Chair

Prof. Simon I. Domberger Chair for Innovative Value Creation

A Gift of Added Value

The 2010 Sackler Prize in Biophysics was awarded to Prof. Yigong Shi of Tsinghua University, Beijing, China (left), for his studies of protein interactions underlying molecular mechanisms of programmed cell death, and to Prof. Gerhard Hummer of the National Institutes of Health, USA, for his studies of the hydrophobic effect and its contribution to protein interactions and assemblies.

Meiter Fellowships

Ten of the 55 graduate students who are studying at the Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies attended the annual Zvi Meitar Fellowships award ceremony and presented their research proposals. Special guests of honor included TAU President Prof. Joseph Klafter, Ofra and Zvi Meitar, founders of the Center, and their son, Advocate Aviad Meitar, and daughter, Dafna Meitar-Nechmad, who are both members of the Center’s Executive Council. Pictured from left: Zvi Meitar, Dean of Law Prof. Hanoch Dagan, Ofra Meitar, former TAU Rector Prof. Nili Cohen and Dafna Meitar-Nechmad.

Adler Prize

The 2010 Prize of the Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection was awarded to Prof. Yochanan Wozner, a former head of TAU’s Bob Shapell School of Social Work, for his lifetime dedication to researching and promoting child welfare and quality of life. Prof. Wozner is a former head of the Ellem Association for Youth-at-Risk and other non-profit organizations. Pictured: Prof. Yochanan Wozner (left) with prize founder and TAU Governor Mario Adler.
A Decade in the Making

The long awaited David and Inez Myers Building for Transgenic Modeling of Human Disease was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished guests, TAU faculty and students. Representing the David and Inez Myers Foundation, whose generous gift helped make the building possible, was foundation director and 2010 TAU honorary doctor S. Lee Kohrman.

Prof. Yosef Shiloh of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, incumbent of the David and Inez Myers Chair for Cancer Genetics, thanked Kohrman and other supporters for helping TAU to realize the dream of building a specific pathogen free (SPF) facility on campus. Prof. Shiloh is known for his work on the human genetic disorder ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T).

More than 10 years ago, a group of biomedical experts at TAU recognized the need to establish a germ-free environment for crucial genetic research on campus. Two academic leaders of TAU, Pro- Rector Prof. Shimon Yankielowicz and Vice Dean of Medicine Prof. Ruth Shalgi, worked tirelessly to assemble the budget needed for such a facility, and the Cleveland-based Myers Foundation stepped in with a major contribution to this pivotal project. The foundation, under Kohrman’s guidance, supports higher education, health and welfare programs throughout the Jewish world, and has been a long-standing friend to TAU and Israel.

“The foundation is interested in basic scientific research,” said Kohrman. “And Prof. Yossi Shiloh is, by any standard, first class in his field. The opportunity to support his work was an opportunity we couldn’t give up.”

The building was also supported by the Argentinean Friends of TAU; the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; a Decade in the Making

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