



People Power at 2011 Meeting

More than 300 overseas and Israeli governors, and their guests, converged on the TAU campus in May for five days of lectures, symposia, business meetings, inaugurations, prize ceremonies and cultural events.



Harvey Krueger,
Chairman of the TAU
Board of Governors

Among the firsts at this Board meeting was a caucus initiated and led by Chairman of the Board, Harvey M. Krueger. Tel Aviv University's most committed and valued leaders shared, in their own words, why they were involved with the University. Again and again the speakers said, "It's the people, the wonderful people we get to meet and work with."

Outgoing AFTAU Chairman William F. Cohen singled out the students. "There are 29,000 good reasons walking around the campus for why I love to serve the University," he

said. Others cited the "amazing scientists and scholars." Ambassador Dan Gillerman, a special guest of Chairman Krueger, focused on the University's friends: "Every time I meet with



Dan Gillerman
Former Israeli
Ambassador to the
United Nations

“ Israel’s contribution to making the world a better place is due, in great part, to Tel Aviv University.”

Tel Aviv University supporters I come away enriched and encouraged about this great institution and the future of Israel," he said.

Ultimately, concluded President Joseph Klafter, "when you invest in great people, you get the best return on investment. That's what the University is all about."



Legendary directing duo **Ethan and Joel Coen** created a major buzz on campus when they came to receive their \$1 million **Dan David Prize**. It was their first time in Israel – devoted exclusively to activities at Tel Aviv University.

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PROFILE: FRANCIS MINKOFF



Michaël Benabou and French Friends Honor Ethiopian Jewry

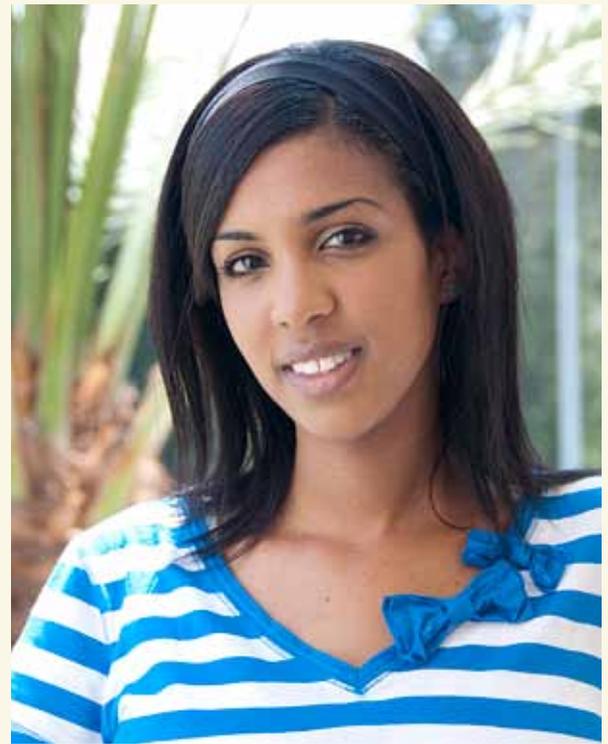
Four thousand Ethiopian Jews perished on their way from Ethiopia to Israel. Now, their bravery and tragic fate has been commemorated by the newly dedicated sculpture **Keshet** ("Connection") located in the campus's highly central Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber Square. The monument was donated by Michaël Benabou as part of the French Friends' drive to support projects aiding Ethiopian Jewish students at the university, and with the help of the Association. The sculpture was created by Israeli designer, architect and TAU Honorary Doctor Ron Arad.

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French Focus on Ethiopian Students

Cont'd from p. 1.

Benabou told the some 200 Ethiopian-Israeli students and youth who attended the ceremony: "You have written one of the greatest sagas in human history. Today you are once again setting an example of perseverance, fearlessness and honor. You are among those who help us understand what it means to be a Jew."



Yehudit Kavda, 25, from Petah Tikva, a student at TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law. On a partial tuition scholarship, she dreams of opening her own firm in commercial law.

“ My grandfather was 75 when he left Ethiopia and he managed to get across the desert, but died in a refugee camp in Sudan. This sculpture honors his memory and the memory of others who died on their way to Israel.”



From left: Ron Arad, Michaël Benabou and TAU President Joseph Klafter

In a further demonstration of French support for Ethiopian students, Jean and Catherine Madar of Paris and their family established the **Victor Teshale Madar Fund for Ethiopian Students**. Named for the Madars' adopted Ethiopian child, Victor Teshale Madar, the fund will enable students to fulfill their academic potential despite the considerable social, economic and academic hurdles they face. Jean Madar told the Ethiopian students gathered at the ceremony: "It is not easy for you and we want to make your life a little bit better." The fund will also help support two programs run by the Henry and Gerald Burger Unit for Student Aid of TAU's Ruth and Allen Ziegler Student Services Division: the Admas Program, which provides financial aid, tutor-

ing and counseling to some 150 students, and a new affirmative action program that will ease the admissions process for Ethiopian students, adapting it to their special needs. Support for the fund was also provided by Jean's mother, Jacqueline Madar, who was unable to attend, and her daughter, Odile Cohen.



Odile Cohen and Jean's brother Alain Madar



Jean and Catherine Madar with son, Victor Teshale, and TAU master's student in sociology Eitan Adana Zawdu, a Fulbright scholar



Dominique Romano (second from left) accompanied by, from left: his daughter, Mathilde, TAU student Maayan Miller, TAU President Joseph Klafter and TAU student Omer Zeevi

Romano Scholarships Presented

Vice President of the TAU French Friends Association and TAU Governor Dominique Romano presented scholarships to two TAU students who do combat reserve duty in the IDF, at a ceremony held in Romano's honor at the IDF Border Police base in Kalkilya, where he performs reserve duty twice a year. During the ceremony TAU President Joseph Klafter presented Romano with a TAU President's Award in recognition of his contribution to strengthening the support network and standing of TAU in France and his aid for students at the University. Attending was a large delegation of French Friends, who viewed demonstrations by the bases's canine combat unit.

More French Projects

Longtime French Friend and TAU Governor David Birène and family were recognized for their contribution to the **Laboratory for the Research of the Mechanisms of Telemere Length** headed by TAU geneticist and bioinformatics expert Prof. Martin Kupiec. Research carried out in the laboratory will deepen understanding of mechanisms that keep the genome healthy and will contribute to the development of novel drugs, therapies and diagnostic tools. Funding for the lab was contributed by Birène,



Prof. Martin Kupiec, Lyne Gelrubin and David Birène



his daughter Lyne Gelrubin, a TAU governor, and her son, Samuel, who was unable to attend.

The **2011 Hugo Ramniceanu Prize in Economics** for 2011 was awarded in the presence of Monique Barel, Ramniceanu's daughter, to husband and wife team **Yehuda and Dita Bronicki**, founders of Ormat Technologies Ltd., a world leader in renewable energy production. The couple donated their prize money toward TAU scholarships honoring the late Hugo Ramniceanu, past President of the French Friends.

The French Friends have been supporting TAU's Department of Psychology since 1990, when longtime benefactor and TAU Governor Woolf Marmot and his wife, Hélène, made a contribution that helped establish the department's French Floor in the Sharett Building of Education. Recent donations have included four doctoral scholarships in psychology funded by the Marmots, Marc Haddad, Prof. François Heilbronn, David Birène and Anne Raim Marmot.

✿ Paris Event

A reception was held for the French Friends of TAU in the home of Yves de Petiville, Director of Protocol at the Paris City Hall. The reception featured a concert performance by young Brazilian pianist John Blanch, a student of Brigitte Engerer. President of the French Friends Prof. François Heilbronn addressed the guests and thanked them for contributing a scholarship to TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.



From left: TAU President Joseph Klaffer, Monique Barel, Dita and Yehuda Bronicki

Prizes

Dan David Prize Marks a Decade

The 10th anniversary of the Dan David Prize was celebrated at TAU with a splash. Hollywood directors and co-writers **Joel and Ethan Coen** of *Fargo* and *The Big Lebowski* fame filled TAU's Miriam and Adolfo Smolarz Auditorium to bursting capacity at the prize award ceremony and at a separate four-hour symposium in which they answered probing questions on their filmmaking techniques. The brothers, who won the prize in the Present Time Dimension, Cinema and Society, were cited for "their ability to tell a simple story in a complex manner." The Coens in turn awarded ten percent of their prize money to film students at TAU's Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts and to students at other academic institutions in Israel and abroad.

President of Israel Shimon Peres, guest of honor, presented the 2010 prize to **Italian President Giorgio Napolitano**, citing him as a close and deep friend of Israel. Celebrated evolutionary scientist **Prof. Marcus Feldman** of Stanford University won the prize in the Past Time Dimension. His research sheds light on many key issues of evolution, including hominoid evolution and the evolution of culture.

The Future Time Dimension Prize was shared by **Prof. Cynthia Kenyon** of the University of California, San Francisco, and



Seated from left: Dan David, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, Gabriella David, Israeli President Shimon Peres. Standing from left: Prof. Gary Ruvkun, Prof. Cynthia Kenyon, Ethan Coen, Piriya Klaffer, TAU President Joseph Klaffer, Joel Coen, Prof. Marcus Feldman.

Prof. Gary Ruvkun of Harvard University Medical School for their work on human longevity. Their research suggests that lifespan could be extended and that the onset of diseases of old age could be delayed genetically or with drugs.

As this issue went to print, Tel Aviv University received the sad news that the Dan David Prize visionary and benefactor, Mr. Dan David, had passed away. A TAU honorary doctor and active governor, Mr. David stood out for his entrepreneurial energy, his commitment to Israel and his devotion to higher education in Israel. His remarkable spirit will live on through the Dan David Prize.



Judy and Stewart Colton



By any measure, the success of the **Stewart and Judy Colton Scholarship Fund** is striking.

Created in 1988 to nurture the next generation of academic leadership, a full one-third of the fund's 51 recipients are now members of the Tel Aviv University faculty. They include the deans of two of TAU's nine faculties, as well as scientists and researchers producing internationally recognized work in fields as diverse as medicine, politics, music, security and law.

The generous master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral fellowships the fund awards reflect the lively intellectual curiosity of the Coltons, American philanthropists whose broad support for TAU spans several decades. Stewart currently serves as Vice Chairman of TAU's Board of Governors and is a past American Friends Chairman. Judy is a member of the Board of Governors. In 2006, Stewart was awarded an

honorary doctorate, the university's most distinguished recognition.

At a recent on-campus event in their honor, the Coltons were warmly welcomed by current and former fellowship recipients, including incoming Dean of Law Daphne Barak-Erez and Dean of Humanities Eyal Zisser. TAU President Joseph Klafter and past TAU

brace the opportunities our scholarships and fellowships offer. They continue to impress us with their creativity and seriousness of purpose," said Stewart at the event. Organized by Shoshana Noy, Director of Foundations and Grants at the TAU Academic Secretariat, the gathering featured musical performances and presentations by student recipients.



Dean of Law
Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez
First Colton Fellowship recipient and incumbent of the Stewart and Judy Colton Chair in Law and Security

Active Engagement

The Coltons' philanthropic support for the university includes the **Stewart and Judy Colton Chair in Law and Security** and the **Colton Family Next Generation Technologies Institute**. TAU scientists who benefit from Colton Institute funding consider the couple active partners in their work, including Dr. Brita Hardy, who is developing a simple protein injection to grow new blood vessels in the heart, replacing open heart surgery, and Dr. Rina Rosin-Arbesfeld, who is developing a gene therapy for highly lethal colon and rectal cancer.

“Stewart and Judy Colton are not just great friends and supporters. They are full partners in my academic career.”

Presidents Haim Ben-Shahar and Itamar Rabinovich were among the guests. “It's so gratifying to see promising young people em-

brace the opportunities our scholarships and fellowships offer. They continue to impress us with their creativity and seriousness of purpose," said Stewart at the event. Organized by Shoshana Noy, Director of Foundations and Grants at the TAU Academic Secretariat, the gathering featured musical performances and presentations by student recipients.

Outgoing, Incoming AFTAU Chairmen



Bill Cohen

At a special reception held during the 2011 TAU Board of Governors meeting, William F. Cohen, outgoing National Chairman of AFTAU, was warmly honored for his four years of productive leadership. TAU President Joseph Klafter was on hand to celebrate his achievements, noting his “exceptional devotion to advancing higher education as a key to Israel's security and prosperity.”

Incoming Chairman Jon Gurkoff, formerly AFTAU's Treasurer, applauded his predecessor's two highly effective and constructive terms, noting that Bill has left him “large shoes to fill.” The CEO of Ada Products Company, Inc. and a New Jersey resident, Jon is active in many American Jewish communal organizations and has long been a passionate advocate for Israel. During this year's BOG meeting, he and his wife, Stevi, sponsored a unique photographic exhibition with an important sociological purpose — to enhance self-esteem among underprivileged children. Entitled “I AM: Israel,” it features self-portraits of dozens of kindergarteners from Safed, Israel, part of the global “I AM: International” initiative by Canadian educator and artist Sasha Sicurella.



Jon Gurkoff



From left: Jonathan Rothman, Prof. Ilana Eli, Head of TAU's Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, Bernard Rothman, Marc Rothman and Harriet Rothman

State-of-the-Art Rothman Surgical Suite Dedicated in Dentistry

Honoring an esteemed role model, the **Bernard N. Rothman DDS Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Suite** was inaugurated at the Niznick Faculty Clinic of TAU's Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine. Attending the ceremony were Bernard Rothman, his wife, Harriet, and their sons, Marc and Jonathan. During his extensive career, Bernie Rothman maintained a private practice for 44 years, taught at various universities and was an active member of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, which is the main supporter of the TAU dental school. Comprising two technologically-advanced surgical rooms and a recovery room, the suite provides top quality care to many who could not otherwise afford dental treatment.

Around the USA

NORTHEAST REGION

✿ “Youth, Media and Revolution in the Middle East”

A lively AFTAU symposium on the “Arab Spring” was held in New York, with speakers analyzing various dimensions of the 2011 upris-



Judith Kipper and Prof. Uzi Rabi

ings, including the power of electronic media to mobilize economically-disadvantaged youth, whether democracy will indeed prevail in the countries affected and possible repercussions for Israel. Presented in conjunction with *The Jewish Week*, the largest Jewish weekly in the US, the forum featured presentations by three regional experts: Prof. Uzi Rabi, Director of the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University; David Makovsky, author, commentator and director of the Washington Institute’s Project on the Middle East Peace Process; and Judith Kipper, the director of the Institute of World Affairs’ Middle East Programs.

Borah Collection Finds a Worthy Home

The immense **Borah Collection of Latin American Research**, containing thousands of priceless books and documents from the library of the late Professor Woodrow Wilson Borah, is now fully accessible to the academic public at the newly refurbished, humidity-controlled Woodrow Borah Library at TAU’s Sourasky Central Library. It was donated to TAU by Marshall Beloof, Borah’s former student and the current Borah estate trustee. Professor Borah, born into a Jewish family in Mississippi in 1912, taught at UC Berkeley for over three decades, becoming one of the world’s foremost scholars on colonial Mexico. “This collection is one of the world’s most important on the subject of the colonial history of Mexico,” says former Sverdlin Institute of Latin American History and Culture head Dr. Geraldo Leibner. “The Institute receives frequent requests from researchers in Israel and abroad for information found in this collection, but until now, access was limited.”



Claudia Stern, Manager of the Collection in the Borah Library

WESTERN REGION

✿ “The Turmoil in the Middle East: Implications for Israel”

Former Congressman Mel Levine and author Connie Bruck’s Pacific Palisades home was the scenic setting for a stimulating dinner and Middle East briefing. The TAU-affiliated



From left: Dr. Emily Landau, Mel Levine, Connie Bruck and Dr. Oded Eran

Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) partnered with AFTAU to present Dr. Oded Eran, Director of the INSS and Israel’s former Ambassador to Jordan and the European Union, together with Dr. Emily Landau, Director of the Institute’s Arms Control and

Regional Security Program. Dr. Eran addressed the potential impact of the “Arab Spring” on Israel, while Dr. Landau discussed diplomatic initiatives to confront the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs.

SOUTHEAST REGION

✿ Cocktails and Pop Art

Some 50 American Friends and TAU alumni gathered at the trendy Britto Central Gallery for an animated evening of food, wine, art and discussion. Guests heard from Ilan Oshri, co-chair of the Florida Leadership Alumni Committee; TAU graduate Ofer Bavly, Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico, who spoke about the importance of TAU for Israel’s future; and gallery director Mark Barber, who led a tour of the Brazilian artist Romero Britto’s work. The event was organized by Florida Leadership Alumni Committee co-chair Ayelet Weinstein.

Australia

Gandel Symposium: Assessing the “Arab Spring”

The revolutions sweeping the Arab world and the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process were the central themes of this year’s **John Gandel Symposium**. The annual event, hosted by the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, honors John Gandel of Australia, a TAU governor and honorary doctor. Dayan Center Director Prof. Uzi Rabi offered an insightful analysis of the region’s uprisings, highlighting the key role of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter in empowering Arab youth to overthrow long-time leaders in Tunisia and Egypt. Prof. Eyal Zisser, Dean of TAU’s Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities, focused on the popular challenge to Bashar al-Assad’s grip on power in Syria, and past President of TAU and former Ambassador to the US, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, warned that without progress on the peace front, the delegitimization of Israel in the international arena will continue unabated.



From left: Professors Eyal Zisser, Itamar Rabinovich and Uzi Rabi



New President for Australian Friends (Victoria)

Dr. Victor Wayne was recently elected President of the Australian Friends of TAU Victoria Chapter, replacing TAU Governor Vivien Zimmet, who was the Association’s devoted President for two years. A well-known cardiologist, Dr. Wayne has served on the boards of numerous institutions in Australia involved in the Jewish community and in medicine. He and his wife, Karen, also a doctor, support several philanthropic causes including cultural activities in the performing arts and programs for unemployed youth. Dr. Wayne has been involved with TAU for the past six years and was elected a TAU Governor in 2010.



Dr. Victor Wayne

Victoria events

✿ The Australian Friends (Vic) held a successful musical evening in the home of Dr. Allan and Susan Kalus, organized by Dr. Fay Pearl. Two local musicians, Blair Harris on cello and Raymond Young on piano, delighted the large audience with their exceptional performance.

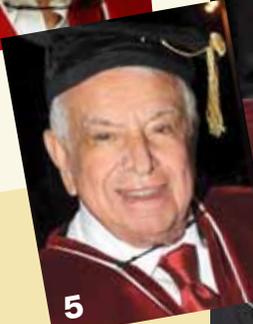
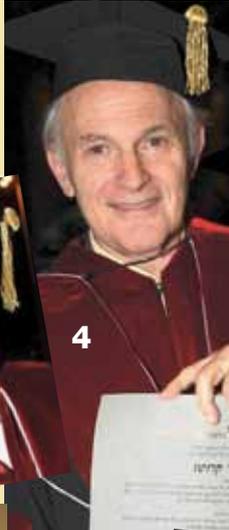
✿ The Australian Friends (Vic) hosted Prof. Colin Price of TAU’s Department of Geophysics and Planetary Sciences. He spoke on natural meteorological hazards such as lightning and thunderstorms and on his department’s research in predicting these events using special sensors to pinpoint global lightning activity.



Dr. Fay Pearl (left), Dr. Allan and Susan Kalus



2011 TAU Honorary Doctorates



1 Prof. Ruth Arnon, Israel

Acclaimed Israeli biomedical researcher, Israel Prize laureate in Medicine, President of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, co-developer of the multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone.

2 Tarun Das, India

Visionary of Indian global economic integration, President of the Aspen India Institute, past leader of the Confederation of Indian Industry and co-founder of TAU's India-Israel Forum.

3 Yoram Kaniuk, Israel

Highly-awarded and prolific Israeli author, leading cultural figure, Sapir Prize recipient and Palmach and War of Independence veteran.

4 Prof. Sir Harold Kroto, USA

Nobel laureate in Chemistry, pioneer in the field of nanotechnology, inspirational teacher and promoter of scientific innovation.

5 Bruno Landesberg, Israel

Prominent Israeli industrialist, General Manager and Chairman of Sano-Bruno's Enterprises Ltd., philanthropist, governor and benefactor of TAU.

6 Donald W. Seal, QC, Canada

Esteemed judge, member of the Quebec Bar for over five decades, philanthropist, long-time TAU governor and legal advisor to the Canadian Friends of TAU.

7 Adina Tal, Israel

Writer, director and arts innovator, founder of the world's first deaf-blind theater ensemble and champion of the creative potential of disabled Israelis.

“What is it that we Indians, in a country of one billion-plus people, see in this small country, Israel? We see courage and leadership in you, we see innovation and technology. Of all the institutions and people in Israel, Tel Aviv University is closest to our hearts. It brings together the finest people on both sides to connect with each other, to multiply the love affairs between Israel and India.”

Excerpts from the speech of Tarun Das, responding on behalf of the honorary degree recipients

Special Ceremony on Campus

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany's first female leader and an outspoken supporter of the State of Israel, was presented with an honorary doctorate by TAU President Joseph Klafter. In her speech, Merkel emphasized that it was scientists that laid the foundations for Israeli-German rapprochement, and noted that numerous collaborative projects exist between Germany and TAU, such as the Marcel Reich-Ranicki Chair in German Literature. Merkel stated that “the combination of Germany's historical responsibility and the vitality of our ties today make the German-Israeli relationship unique.”



From left: TAU President Joseph Klafter, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Rector Aron Shai



From left: Head of the Dov Lautman Unit for Science Oriented Youth Shira Shofty, Vice President for Research and Development Prof. Ehud Gazit, Checkpoint CEO and TAU Governor Gil Schwed and Benny and Patsy Landa

Annual Prizes



8 Prof. Michael S. Waterman, USA

Trailblazer in the field of bioinformatics and in deciphering the genome, pivotal figure in the training of new generations of young bioinformatics researchers.



Susan Krongold (right) receives the certificate, together with her children, Danielle and Adam

9 Ron Krongold (1944-2010), Australia Honorary Fellowship

Past President of the Australian Friends of TAU (Victoria Chapter), Jewish community leader, chemical engineer and devoted supporter of Israel and TAU governor over many years.

TAU President Recognizes Social Change-Makers

Three individuals received the TAU President's Award for outstanding contributions to Israeli society and TAU: **Yehuda Frenkel**, Ashdod's education supervisor, in recognition of his advocacy of the city's educational system and his efforts to integrate the diverse populations of Ashdod in the classroom; and TAU Governor **Benny Landa** and his wife **Patsy Landa**, for their commitment to reducing social and educational disparities within Israel, and their longtime devotion to TAU, which includes the establishment of the Landa Center for Equal Opportunity through Education and support for the Dov Lautman Unit for Science Oriented Youth.

Sieratzki Prize

The 2011 **Sieratzki Prize for Advances in Neuroscience** was awarded to **Dr. Inna Slutsky** of TAU and **Dr. Ofer Yizhar** of the Weizmann Institute. **Dr. Nachum Ulanovsky**, also of the Weizmann Institute, and **Dr. Yossi Yovel** of TAU were the joint recipients of special recognition awards. The prize was established by Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki and his mother, Barbara, in memory of their late father and husband, **Heinrich (Yehezkel) Sieratzki**. They also founded a chair in neurology in his honor.



From left: Mrs. Barbara Sieratzki, Dr. Jechil Sieratzki and Dr. Inna Slutsky



From left: Dr. Arturo Constantiner, Tamar Hakimi, Caren and Claudia Constantiner

Constantiner Prize

The 2011 **Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education** was awarded to the **Department of Education of Or Yehuda** and its director, **Tamar Hakimi**, for their development and implementation of unique programs for the city's children, addressing socio-economic disparity and improving matriculation performance. The award honors the late Dr. Jaime Constantiner for his contributions to Jewish education in the Diaspora, and was presented by his son, TAU Governor Arturo Constantiner.

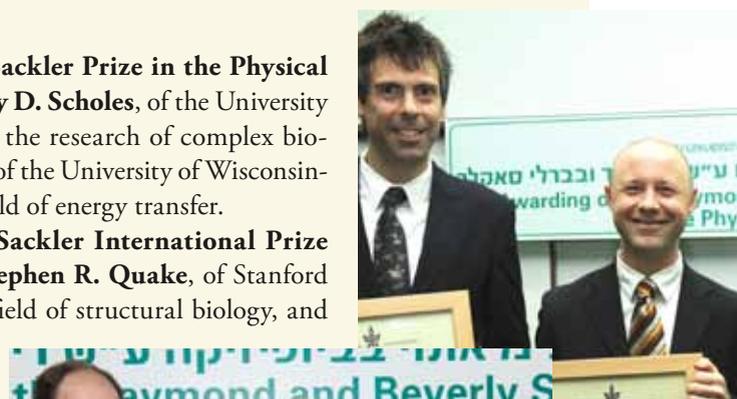
Prof. Gregory D. Scholes (left) and Prof. Martin T. Zanni

Sackler Prizes

The 2011 **Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences** was presented to **Prof. Gregory D. Scholes**, of the University of Toronto, for his pioneering work in the research of complex biomolecules, and **Prof. Martin T. Zanni**, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for his achievements in the field of energy transfer.

The **2011 Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics** was awarded to **Prof. Stephen R. Quake**, of Stanford University, for his contribution in the field of structural biology, and to **Prof. Xiaowei Zhuang**, of Harvard University, for her innovative research in the field of super resolution microscopy.

Both Sackler Prizes were established by TAU Governors Dr. Raymond Sackler and his wife, Beverly, benefactors of TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences and other major university initiatives.



From left: Prof. Stephen R. Quake, TAU President Joseph Klaffer and Prof. Xiaowei Zhuang



Prof. Tammie Ronen (left) and Judge Saviona Rotlevy

Adler Prize

The 2011 **Prize of the Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection** was awarded to **Judge Saviona Rotlevy**, in recognition of her defense of children and victims of sexual abuse as Tel Aviv District Court and Tel Aviv District Juvenile Court judge and her extensive contributions to organizations aiding youth-at-risk.

Adopting Life Sciences

ARGENTINA

Fellowships in the life sciences were awarded to graduate students in the framework of the **Argentina PhD Honors Program of the Smolarz Family Graduate School of Life Sciences**. The ceremony was attended by a large Argentinean contingent led by Friends President Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch. Dean of Life Sciences Moshe Mevarech noted the close ties between the Argentinean Friends and the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences.

The **Laboratory for Studies of Genome Stability**, established by the Argentinean Friends and headed by Prof. Martin Kupiec, is advancing innovative and multidisciplinary research that will deepen understanding of the mechanisms that keep the genome healthy and prevent devastating diseases such as cancer.

Prof. Martin Kupiec, Head of the Laboratory

“ We are using the vast body of knowledge on yeast genetics to understand the impact of telomeres – the natural ends of chromosomes – on tumor formation. Our research will contribute to the development of novel drugs, therapies and diagnostic tools.”



From left: Dean of Life Sciences Prof. Moshe Mevarech, President of the Argentinean Friends Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch and Vice President Dr. Hugo Bliffeld

The **Argentinean Friends Fund for Recruitment of Outstanding New Faculty Members** is bolstering the university’s major drive to bring home to Israel the best and most creative young researchers from institutions abroad. The fund, which will partially support the recruitment of six researchers in the life sciences, plays a vital role in strengthening the Israeli economy by ensuring that Israeli discoveries remain Israeli.

President’s Award to Miriam Smolarz



TAU President Joseph Klafter and Miriam Smolarz

TAU benefactor **Miriam Milberg de Smolarz** was presented with the TAU President’s Award in a ceremony that took place in the beautiful auditorium that bears the Smolarz name – and which has become a major center of national and international cultural events on campus. Mrs. Smolarz, a TAU governor, was recognized for her support, together with her husband, Adolfo, and the rest of the family, of numerous physical and academic initiatives at TAU including the Gitter-Smolarz Library of Life Sciences and Medicine and the Smolarz Family Graduate School of Life Sciences. Over the years, Miriam has been a dedicated member of the Argentinean Friends Association and a guiding light for the Jewish community in Argentina.

MEXICO

The **Cell Screening Facility for Personalized Medicine Established by the Mexican Friends of TAU**, the first of its kind in Israel, was inaugurated on campus. It is devoted to screening and identifying compounds that could serve as the basis for personalized drug therapies for neurodegenerative and Jewish hereditary diseases such as familial dysautonomia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).



Dr. Miguel Weil, Head of the Facility, and President of the Mexican Friends Dr. Arie Dorenbaum

✿ Miguel León-Portilla Honored in Mexico

Noted Mexican historian and anthropologist Miguel León-Portilla, a 1987 TAU honorary doctor, was presented with a TAU President’s Award on the occasion of his 85th birthday at the National College of Mexico. Attended by members of the Mexican Friends, Israeli Ambassador Rodica Radian Gordon, Director of TAU’s S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies Prof. Raanan Rein, and prominent academics and public figures, the event was followed by a luncheon reception at the historical synagogue of Mexico City. León-Portilla is an expert in the Nahuatl culture and author of *Vision of the Vanquished*.



Miguel León-Portilla

❁ Annual Punta Del Este Meeting

Nearly 2,000 members and guests of the TAU Argentinean, Uruguayan and Brazilian Friends Associations gathered together in the beautiful resort town of Punta Del Este in Uruguay earlier this year for an exciting program of cultural events, lectures and dinner receptions. The meeting was opened by TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra, which played excerpts from a Holocaust Memorial Concert they performed at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2008. Guests of honor included



From left: Argentinean Friends Mauricio Zajd, Elba Cuenca, Jacobo Orman, Miriam Smolarz and Bension Reiman

Israeli Ambassador to Uruguay Dori Goren and two past Presidents of Uruguay, Dr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle. During the meeting a prize was presented to TAU benefactor Elba Cuenca in recognition of her outstanding support for TAU and the State of Israel.

Highlights included a debate on the implications of the Middle East conflict for Latin American politics with the participation of Argentinean writer and TAU Honorary Doctor Dr. Marcos Aguinis and exiled Cuban writer Dr. Carlos Alberto Montaner.

Canada



Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro (left), Mary Kantor and Dr. Harold T. Shapiro

Canadian Friends Advance TAU Neuroscience

A state-of-the-art laboratory for the study of neurodegenerative diseases was established at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine by the Canadian Friends of TAU, Montreal chapter, headed by their President Theodore Gollof. **The Mary Shapiro Kantor Neurodegenerative Research Laboratory** honors brothers **Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro**, Principal and Vice Chancellor Emeritus, McGill University, and **Dr. Harold T. Shapiro**, President Emeritus, Princeton University, together with their mother, Mary, who celebrated her 103rd birthday in July. The Shapiros have been dedicated supporters of Israel throughout their lives, exemplified by Mary, who served for many years as President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Prior to the laboratory's inauguration on the TAU campus, a tribute fundraising gala was held in Montreal, organized by a dynamic group of community leaders: CFTAU National President Judge Barbara Seal and her husband, Donald W. Seal QC, both TAU honorary doctors; Barbara and Stanley Plotnick; Ety Bienstock; Marvin Corber; and the honorees, Drs. Bernard and Harold Shapiro.



Vice Rector Dina Prialnik with Judge Barbara Seal and Donald Seal

Dr. Eran Perlson, Head of the Kantor Laboratory



“ We are trying to discover the molecular basis for long-distance signaling between cells and their environment, with a view to developing new drugs and delivery methods to treat debilitating diseases such as ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. It's about giving hope to sufferers, and ultimately, about saving lives.”

❁ Toronto event

An event organized by the Canadian Friends of TAU, Toronto chapter, and the Canadian Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO), treated some 70 guests to an evening with conductor Zubin Mehta. Held at the home of Dorothy Shoichet, a board member of the Toronto Chapter, it featured performances by TAU's Gertler String Quartet and emerging artists from the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music. The funds raised will support the school and the IPO.



Toronto Member of the Board of Governors Adrienne Cohen and Zubin Mehta

Architecture Gets New Wing

The cornerstone for the new **Wing of the David Azrieli School of Architecture Building** was laid, fulfilling the 15 year-old vision of its founder and designer, architect David Azrieli. Azrieli was represented at the ceremony by his daughter, Danna, a newly elected member of the TAU Board of Governors. Danna remarked that her father's relationship with TAU began in the early 1990s, when he sought to realize his dream of establishing a school of architecture in the center of the country, and that his life-long love of architecture had inspired and sustained him while a refugee in war-torn Europe.



Danna Azrieli with TAU President Joseph Klaffer

Swiss Friends Support Legal Clinics and Music Projects



Chairman of the Board of Governors Harvey Krueger and Anette Bollag-Rothschild

From helping minority communities fight air and water pollution, to aiding Jews and Arabs in Jaffa with dire housing needs, the **Swiss Friends Fund for Environmental Justice, Housing and Economic Empowerment** enables law students to find practical legal solutions to residents' problems as part of TAU's Elga Cegla Clinical Legal Education Program.

At the inauguration of the fund, program director Prof. Neta Ziv said, "The clinics impart a unique learning experience to students while providing free legal services to the neediest and most disadvantaged groups in Israel."



Prof. Neta Ziv and MK Yitzhak Herzog

The President of the Swiss Friends of Tel Aviv University, Anette Bollag-Rothschild, said, "For me, as a former lawyer and student at the law faculty of Stockholm University, it was a revelation and a 'dream come true' to find a law school that actually lets its students practice the profession in parallel with academic studies. Led by seasoned lawyers, the students develop social responsibility and attempt to create true social equality and justice."

Knesset member Yitzhak Herzog, former Minister of Welfare and Social Services, spoke at the ceremony, which was attended by Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors Harvey Krueger and Swiss Friends Chaim Van

ing young talent. The programs will impart advanced pedagogical methods suited to the 21st century child such as teaching youngsters in small groups, ensemble playing, conducting and improvisation. The string program, now entering its second year, has a diverse student body, including immigrant, Israeli-Arab and Ultra-Orthodox musicians.

Other music-related projects include the **Swiss Friends Merit Scholarships in Music**, awarded to 18 students each year, and the **Buchmann-Mehta School Swiss Friends Choir**, a chamber choir with 20 members, all of whom enjoy an annual scholarship made available through the generous support of the Swiss Friends.

Liah Raikhlin, 30, violin, MA in String Pedagogy

“The fact that you play an instrument doesn't necessarily make you a good teacher. The new techniques I'm learning now are making a big difference to my teaching.”



Dijk and TAU Governor Rita Brainin with her husband, as well as Bollag-Rothschild's husband, Sami, and daughter, Stephanie.

Recognizing the growing need for highly-trained music teachers in Israel, the Swiss Friends are funding two new graduate-level teaching programs at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music: the **Swiss Friends MA Degree Program in String Pedagogy** and the **Swiss Friends MA Degree Program in Wind Pedagogy**. The two-year programs, which are headed by Prof. Tomer Lev, are aimed at students with teaching experience who wish to ultimately form an elite group of teachers capable of recognizing and nurtur-

✿ Zurich event

For the second time, the Swiss Friends of TAU hosted a gala concert in Zurich featuring the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Zubin-Mehta, Honorary President of the School, with star pianist Yefim Bronfman as soloist. The orchestra consisted of 100 students who flew in especially for the event. The concert was followed by a dinner attended by 250 guests. The event was sponsored by generous Swiss benefactors and Bank Hapoalim (Switzerland) and organized by President of the Swiss Friends Anette Bollag-Rothschild.

Porter EcoBuilding Moves Forward

The scroll-signing ceremony for the cornerstone-laying of TAU's new **EcoBuilding**, which will house the **Porter School of Environmental Studies**, was held on campus, ushering in a new era of green awareness at the university. Made possible by Dame Shirley Porter, who, along with her late husband, Sir Leslie Porter, established the school in 2000, the EcoBuilding will utilize the latest sustainable architectural technologies and deliver Israel's first LEED Platinum Certified building, the highest accreditation of the US Green Building Council.



From left: Chairman of TAU's Board of Governors Harvey Krueger, Dame Shirley Porter and TAU President Joseph Klaffer

Annual Gutwirth Family Scholarships



Benjamin Zucker with Margarita Osipov, a recipient of the Lotty Zucker Gutwirth and Charles Zucker Scholarships for new immigrant students.



Prof. Karen Alkalay-Gut of the Department of English and American Studies (left) presents Barbara Zucker, daughter of the late Bernice Schaffer Bessin, with a collection of poems that were written by past recipients of the Bernice Schaffer Bessin Poetry Prize.



The Hendrik and Irene Gutwirth Scholarships in Diabetes Mellitus were presented by Prof. Paul Zimmet (far left) and TAU Governor Vivien Zimmet, then President of the Australian Friends Victoria Chapter (second from right), to Professors Sarah Ferber and Miron Weinreb of TAU in the presence of Dean of Medicine Yoseph Mekori (far right).

uk

SCOTLAND

🌸 Music Recital for Scottish Friends

The Scottish Friends of TAU held their Annual Recital and Luncheon Party at the home of Jeremy and Risha Freedman in Glasgow. Two talented young musicians from TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, pianist Yevgeny Yontov and soprano Einat Aronstein, performed at the event. Lady Bette Stone, a generous supporter of the Scottish Friends, was the guest of honor.



Chairman of the Scottish Friends Leslie Wolfson with Einat Aronstein and Yevgeny Yontov

LONDON

🌸 Roth Institute Event

Historian Sir Martin Gilbert and the UK Government's First Envoy for post-Holocaust issues and former Ambassador to Israel, Sir Andrew Burns, were the guest speakers at an evening held by the Tel Aviv University Trust in support of TAU's Stephen Roth Institute



From left: Sir Peter Roth, Sir Andrew Burns, Executive Director of the Tel Aviv University Trust Cara Case, Sir Martin Gilbert and Dr. Scott Ury

for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism. The event, which was sponsored by the Mishcon de Reya law firm, was chaired by Sir Peter Roth, who founded the institute in memory of his father. Representing TAU at the event were new Head of the Roth Institute Dr. Scott Ury and Holocaust denial scholar Dr. Esther Webman.

🌸 The newly established Tel Aviv University Trust alumni association held its second UK alumni event, featuring two media experts: Chairman of the British Trust David Levin and TAU alumnus Ynon Kreiz, then Chairman & CEO of the Endemol Group. Founded this year, the group already has over 200 members and plans to hold a series of stimulating events.



Ynon Kreiz and David Levin

israel

🌸 Security, Equality and Artistry

Three events were held by the Business Academic Club of the Israeli Friends of TAU. TAU President Joseph Klafter gave greetings at each event, all of which were hosted by Friends President Amos Shapira.

• In his first public appearance since leaving office, former Shin Bet Director Yuval Diskin spoke about the dangers for Israel of the Palestinians' threat to declare statehood in September.



• Knesset Finance Committee Member and Labor leadership contender MK Shelly Yachimovich delivered a speech on socio-economic issues such as capping the salaries of executives. Yachimovich was joined by TAU professor emeritus Noam Sheriff, 2011 Israel Prize laureate in Music, who shared some of the highlights of his career.

• Artist Sigalit Landau, Israel's 2011 Venice Biennale representative, talked about the influence of the Dead Sea on her art-making and displayed a range of works from the Israeli Pavilion in Venice.



Former Shin Bet director Yuval Diskin and Amos Shapira

germany

🌸 Drug Development Overview

The development of drugs for neurodegenerative diseases was the subject of a lecture to the Munich Friends given by former Dean of Life Sciences Yoel Kloog. The event was followed by a reception hosted by Vice President of the German Friends and President of the Israel-Cultural Community in Munich Dr. h.c. Charlotte Knobloch. Prof. Kloog is head of TAU's Prajs-Drimmer Institute for the Development of Anti-Degenerative Drugs, founded by TAU Dr. h.c. Srueel Prajs and his sister, TAU Governor Norma Drimmer, both pillars of the Jewish community in Germany.



From left: TAU's representative in Germany Dr. Mati Kranz, Prof. Yoel Kloog and Dr. David Leschem, member of the Bavarian Friends

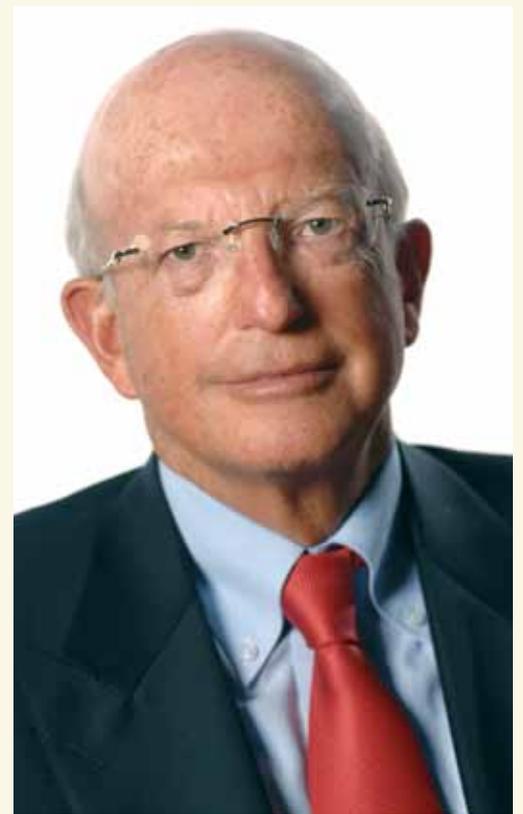
austria

🌸 Piano Competition Honors Arianne Katcz

TAU's Arianne Katcz Piano Competition, founded in 1986 by TAU Governor George Katcz of Austria in honor of his late sister, Arianne, celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. First Prize was awarded to Shir Semmel, Second Prize to Yevgeny Yontov, and Third Prize to Tomer Gewirtzman. The campus event was chaired by Prof. Zeev Dorman, Head of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, and attended by TAU President Joseph Klafter.

Championing the Israeli Legal Field

A fervent Zionist and devoted supporter of Israel, TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor **Francis C. Minkoff** of Switzerland is passionately committed to the cause of higher education in Israel.



Carrying on a tradition of giving to Israel and TAU established by his late father, André, Francis Minkoff and his wife, Marie-France, have been instrumental in realizing some of the most important projects at TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law: the W. A. Minkoff Building, established in memory of his father, which

The family moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where André made a career in real estate. He strongly believed, however, that it was his task to help Israel and he passed this tradition on to his children.

A businessman, real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist, as well as an engaged and

Lilach Lurie, Doctoral student in Law

“When I returned to TAU after two years abroad I was amazed to see the changes in advanced legal studies at Tel Aviv as a result of the new Minkoff Wing. Once I stepped into the new floor I knew this would be a great environment for me to complete my PhD studies.”

houses the faculty's law library and academic staff offices, and the Francis and Marie-France Minkoff Wing, which provides a home for the faculty's cutting-edge legal scholarship. The family has also provided continuous support for the law library including advanced computers and has supported scholarships for students at the Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies.

“The wing's spacious, elegantly designed and well-equipped premises create an optimal environment for the Faculty's main mission of cultivating future generations of legal leaders and experts for Israeli society and academia,” says Faculty Dean Daphne Barak-Erez.

Francis Minkoff was born in Switzerland in 1944 into a family of Zionists: his great-grandfather left Russia for Eretz Israel in 1890 and Minkoff's father, André, was born in Jaffa.

influential leader in the Geneva Jewish community, Francis visits Israel regularly and has become personally involved in the many institutions and projects he supports.

Francis says that his father taught him that “education, access to knowledge and research in science and technology are an essential guarantee for the progress, prosperity and spiritual standing of Israel.”

Francis chose to support the law faculty as a way of paying posthumous tribute to his second mentor and wife Marie-France's father, Prof. Jean Graven, a famous criminal lawyer, Judge of the Supreme Court of Switzerland and Rector of the University of Geneva.



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