In a milestone for Tel Aviv University, the Faculty of Management has been newly dedicated as the Coller School of Management. The $50 million funding commitment for the school was announced at the opening of the 2016 Board of Governors meeting by British financier and TAU Honorary Doctor Jeremy Coller. The announcement officially kicked off the University’s $1 billion capital campaign, for which $300 million – including Coller’s lead gift – has already been raised.

In his greetings at the Coller School dedication ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “Today we enter into a new era in management research and teaching: The Coller Era.” The new funding is expected to catapult the school to the top tier of business schools globally.

Coller, who is the CEO and founder of Coller Capital, said: “There are two ways to change the world – through education and through successful innovation. This is an entrepreneurial university and it’s inspiring. Venture is respected here and this school has the right ingredients to become the world’s leading venture business school.” The school dedication expands on the establishment in 2013 of TAU’s Coller Institute of Venture, part of Coller’s wider philanthropic support of worldwide teaching and research in entrepreneurship and innovation, along with human health, farming sustainability and animal welfare.

Anniversary buzz

The Coller School dedication was among several high-profile events marking TAU’s 60th anniversary Board of Governors meeting. In his “State of the University” address, President Klafter discussed six decades of scientific pursuit and discovery alongside tremendous advances in campus development.

Historic milestones for 2015-16, he said, were a complete reorganization of the University’s 125 schools and departments into 30 larger schools, and the completion of a branding process. In the international sphere, the University signed at least a dozen new cooperation agreements with foreign institutions. Total research funding for 2014-15 reached $200 million and TAU ranked 3rd in Europe for ERC starter grants for young faculty.

President Klafter enumerated the many large building projects, academic programs and scholarship funds that were launched this year with the help of the University’s governors and worldwide friends. “All these initiatives will enable more content – more labs, more teaching facilities, more outstanding research and more global collaborations,” Klafter emphasized.

“Our achievements and future aspirations are possible because of our dedicated supporters. We thank them for their confidence in us and look forward to working with them on the campaign,” Klafter said.
Steve Tisch was guest of honor at the inauguration of the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television. With Tisch’s generous support, the School is enhancing its curriculum, attracting top-level talent, offering additional scholarships, introducing a digital media program, providing new state-of-the-art equipment, renovating facilities and bringing further international collaborations.

Speaking at the festive ceremony, Tisch said, “I am inspired by the artistry, passion and commitment of the students at this university. I strongly believe in the power of storytelling and that stories told through film and television can break down barriers and increase dialogue and understanding. My hope is to help these students achieve their dreams and share their creative stories in the international arena,” he said.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “Steve Tisch’s investment in our university has positioned the Film and TV School as a world class center of creativity, and will continue to enhance academic training and knowledge for many years to come.”

TAU has educated generations of filmmakers who are heavyweights of the industry, including Oscar®-nominated directors Ari Folman (Waltz with Bashir), Yaron Shani (Ajami), and Dror Moreh (The Gatekeepers), along with award-winning television writer-producers Gideon Raff (Homeland) and Hagai Levi (The Affair, In Treatment).

Steve Tisch is a partner at Escape Artists Productions and is co-owner, chairman and executive vice president of the New York Football Giants. He received his Academy Award as a producer of Forrest Gump, which won Best Picture in 1994, and he has received two Super Bowl rings as chairman of the Giants.


Tisch has been a leader in the philanthropic sector and generously contributes his time and resources to a variety of organizations in the arts, sports and medicine.

TAU Presents: The 16th TLV Film Festival

Two of the top prizes at this year’s Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival were won by TAU students. Dana Lerer won the International Competition for her film, The Fine Line (2015), and Raanan Berger won Best Director Prize for Up and Arie (2015). Two hundred short films from 50 countries were represented at the TAU-organized festival, which featured an exciting array of screenings, guest lectures by distinguished directors, workshops and social events. TAU film school benefactor Steve Tisch was Honorary Chairman of the Festival in 2014.
The first of its kind to be established at an Israeli university, the BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery brings together an expert team of TAU scientists in a single, large advanced laboratory. It will serve dozens of research groups across the TAU campus from medicine, biology, biotechnology, chemistry and computer science – as well as from other Israeli research institutions – at a critical stage in their research, ensuring that exciting lab breakthroughs are advanced to the stage where they are ripe for commercial development.

The Center will build on TAU’s large pool of biomedical scientists and clinicians – the largest in Israel – to speed up and expand its contribution to this vital field. Currently, 23 drugs and medical treatments based on TAU intellectual property are in the development pipeline.

The Center was made possible through the $20 million Blavatnik Initiative established in 2014 – a multi-year program committed to the advancement of interdisciplinary scientific research, discovery and development.

At the inauguration ceremony, Prof. Ehud Gazit, Director of the Center, said, “We are very grateful to TAU Honorary Doctor Len Blavatnik for this generous donation and for the continued support of the Blavatnik Family Foundation, as well as the ongoing personal guidance of Dr. Isaac Kohlberg, Mr. Blavatnik’s scientific adviser.”

Israeli representative of the Blavatnik Family Foundation Avi Fischer spoke of Mr. Blavatnik’s philanthropic activities, stating that “healthcare, biotechnology and high-tech are the things that most interest Len, and Tel Aviv University is the only Israeli university that he supports. What he most wants to see is greater synergy between industry and the academy. The new Center will help make this a reality,” he said.
Honorary Degrees Ceremony 2016

Honorary Doctorates

Steve Tisch, USA
Academy Award-winning film producer and businessman; co-owner, Chairman and Executive Vice President of the New York Giants; philanthropist supporting medical research, performing arts, culture and sport; and benefactor of TAU’s Steve Tisch School of Film and Television.

George S. Wise Medal

Mortimer B. Zuckerman, USA
Prominent business, civic and Jewish leader; entrepreneur in the real estate and media industries; philanthropist in the areas of child welfare and medical research; and visionary creator of the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program for enhancing US-Israeli scientific collaboration at Israeli universities.

Boaz Dotan, Israel
TAU alumnus; successful entrepreneur; co-founder of Amdocs; supporter of technology-based initiatives advancing Israel’s standing as a world hub for innovation; ardent supporter of medical care and research in Israel, including at Tel Aviv University through the Dotan Center for Hemato-Oncology.

Dr. Segenet Kelemu, Ethiopia
Scientist, leader, teacher and mentor in the field of molecular plant pathology; Director General of the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Kenya and of the Eastern and Central Africa Biosciences Hub; and member of the International Scientific Committee of TAU’s Manna Center Program for Food Safety & Security.

Michal Rovner, Israel
Leading Israeli artist working in multimedia, sculpture, drawing and photography; arts pioneer who is widely exhibited at the world’s most prestigious venues, including Tate Britain, the Louvre, Whitney Museum of Art and the Israeli Pavilion of the Venice Biennale; and supporter of arts scholarship at Tel Aviv University.

Mortimer B. Zuckerman
Prominent business, civic and Jewish leader; entrepreneur in the real estate and media industries; philanthropist in the areas of child welfare and medical research; and visionary creator of the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program for enhancing US-Israeli scientific collaboration at Israeli universities.
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks,
England
Former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth; global religious leader, academic, philosopher, author, intellectual and tireless proponent of interfaith dialogue; staunch friend of Israel; and recipient of numerous awards including the Jerusalem Prize and the Templeton Prize.

Dr. Boris Mints,
Russian Federation
Founder and President of 01 Group, a private holding company investing in the real estate, industrial and financial sectors; holder of a PhD in engineering; former Assistant Professor of advanced mathematics at the Ivanovo Textile Academy; respected civic and Jewish leader in the Russian Federation and Europe; engaged supporter of Israeli and Jewish causes and the arts, and of TAU’s Boris Mints Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions to Global Challenges.

TAU conferred its most distinguished awards on a remarkable group of figures recognized for their professional and philanthropic contributions to society and their staunch support for the State of Israel.

Rabbi Sacks responding on behalf of recipients

“Institutions of higher learning are guardians of our collective heritage. To defend a country you need an army, but to defend freedom you need education. If there was justice in the world, the world would not be attempting to boycott Israeli universities. The world would be attempting to imitate Israeli universities, because here is where freedom of speech and people of different kinds come together and nowhere is this truer than at Tel Aviv University. I salute this university because it has held firm to its principles of integrity, honesty and love of truth that has made it one of the best universities in the world.”

Honorary Fellowship
The art of mediation and negotiation is crucial to solving conflicts – whether it’s a marriage on the rocks or an international border dispute. Since 2003, TAU’s Evens Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation has graduated some 425 students who have gained the knowledge and practical skills required for careers in Israel’s political, diplomatic, legal and business communities.

The Program’s Mediation Center for settling disputes out of court has achieved a 60% success rate for resolving cases, one-third more than the national average as reported by the Israel Bar Association. Its monthly Peace Index has become an important gauge of the reactions of the Israeli public to developments in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Based on this strong track record, the Program’s range and scope is now being expanded. Program visionary and founder Corinne Evens, a TAU Governor, and the Olivestone Trust are supporting a plan to increase the number of graduate fellowships, broaden activities at the Mediation Center to target groups from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds, sponsor a joint conference on trauma with TAU’s Sagol School of Neuroscience, and pioneer a joint conference with Sciences Po, Paris, aimed at presenting a more balanced picture of Israel to young people in Europe.

The expansion was marked on campus in a ceremony held in the presence of Ms. Evens, Olivestone Trustee Cedric Olivestone, President of Olivestone Trust Joseph Steinman, and Projects Director of Olivestone Trust Ms. Michal Caspi. Also present were Chairman of the Department of Public Policy Prof. Itai Sened and Head of the Evens Program Prof. (emer.) Ephraim Ya’ar.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said to Ms. Evens, “I want to praise you and the Olivestone Trust for supporting a field that gets people to listen to one another and find common ground. I am happy and thankful that Tel Aviv University can take an active part in this noble goal.”

The Boris Mints Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions to Global Challenges will draw on TAU’s diverse academic units to tackle issues such as food security, renewable energy, water scarcity, and labor migration, with the goal of formulating strategic policy recommendations for decision-makers worldwide.

The Institute, which is directed by Prof. Itai Sened of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences, was inaugurated by TAU Honorary Fellow Boris Mints, a businessman with a PhD in engineering. Dr. Mints told the gathering, “Israel is the birthplace of our civilization and thus there is no better place to study the most pressing concerns facing civilization than here,” he said.

Among the foreign dignitaries and speakers present were Prof. Armen Darbinian, Rector of Russian-Armenian State University and former Prime Minister of Armenia; Prof. Václav Klaus, Co-Founder of the Václav Klaus Institute and former President of the Czech Republic; and Dr. Simeon Djankov, Rector of the New Economic School in Moscow and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Bulgaria.

The ceremony was followed by a symposium highlighting two key issues the Institute will address: energy and refugees.
Accessibility to higher education for young Israelis from outlying and disadvantaged cities has received a substantial boost at TAU through the Nissim and Rina Levy Periphery Scholarship Fund.

The Fund will award scholarships to 40 talented students each year for the entire course of their degree studies in the framework of TAU’s Periphery Program. Eligible candidates are young people who do not enjoy the same educational opportunities as their peers in the well-to-do center of the country. The Program works around this disadvantage by modifying university entrance criteria and hand-picking students who performed at the top of their high-school class.

The Periphery Program’s mission is to build up leadership in Israeli society. Founded in 2005, it is operated in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and is administered at TAU by the Ruth and Allen Ziegler Student Services Division. Participants receive generous scholarships and living stipends, subsidized academic tutoring, help with identifying learning disabilities, assistance with test anxiety, counseling and career guidance.

The Program has graduated 220 students to date and has a success rate of 80%, with the majority of students achieving high grade point averages and now pursuing successful careers. This past year, five recipients featured on the Dean’s List of their respective faculties and one was awarded the Rector’s Certificate of Excellence.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “This scholarship fund is helping jump-start social mobility with the finest undergraduate degrees that Israel has to offer. We want these students to study in an environment of research and exploration, with the hope that some of them will want to compete for acceptance into advanced degree programs,” he said.

Social responsibility

Dean of Students Prof. Tova Most thanked Mrs. Rina and Dr. Nissim Levy for their generous contribution and vision in partnering with Tel Aviv University to effect social justice. “Israel is facing great challenges in coping with urgent social and economic problems and gaps that are threatening to weaken its cohesiveness and identity. The Levy Fund will encourage students to overcome these social gaps,” she said.

She noted that in return for financial and other aid, students are expected to take part in community service, a requirement that “nurture social responsibility that can be an agent for social change.”

Dr. Nissim Levy and his wife, Rina, reside in the UK and Spain. Raised in Haifa, Dr. Levy is a chemist by education and a graduate of both the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Technion Institute of Technology. For several years he worked as a senior researcher for NASA in San Francisco. Dr. Levy later moved to the UK and became a successful businessman who today has over 20 years’ experience in management of trading and investment companies and in real estate.

Philanthropy is central to the family’s vision – in particular aiding at-risk youth through NGOs. “We want the scholarship fund to give students from the periphery hope for a better future,” said Dr. Levy.

Veronica Elizarov, Nissim and Rina Levy Scholarship recipient

I was raised in an outlying town where quality education is hard to reach. I am glad that Israeli donors are contributing to the periphery and helping close educational gaps in Israeli society.”
Ramniceanu Prize

The Hugo Ramniceanu Prize in Economics for 2016 was awarded to Israeli “industrial powerhouse” Dr. Eli Fischer, founder of Fischer Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and the Dr. Fischer household brand name. TAU President Joseph Klafter praised Dr. Fischer’s entrepreneurial spirit as a man who “remade himself from a Czech immigrant fleeing Hitler into a pioneering business figure at the helm of one of Israel’s leading pharma companies.” He also spoke of Dr. Fischer’s “deep social consciousness, reflected in his longtime dedication to fostering a stronger Israeli society.” Dr. Fischer donated his prize money to two TAU medical students: Yamit Jennifer Cohen and Hagar Malcov, both in the Direct PhD Program for Outstanding Students and both from the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry, Sackler Faculty of Medicine. A scholarship was also awarded to Anna Lerman, a TAU student in economics. The Prize honors the late Hugo Ramniceanu, a longtime President of the French Friends Association, and is awarded annually to distinguished personalities in the Israeli business world. Ramniceanu’s daughter, Dr. Monique Barel, said at the award ceremony, “My father helped many Israeli organizations but Tel Aviv University was his favorite. He considered it his third child.”

Sieratzki Prize

The Sieratzki Prize for Advances in Neurosciences for 2016 was awarded to seven outstanding researchers and students in brain science: Dr. Kuti Baruch of the Weizmann Institute of Science; Dr. Roe Admon of the Functional Brain Center, Wohl Institute for Advanced Imaging at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center; Dr. Tom Schonberg of TAU; Dr. Yonathan Kupchik of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Dr. Nicola Maggio of the Chaim Sheba Medical Center; and TAU students Gal Hacohen Kleinman and Neta Gazit. This year’s ceremony marked the 90th birthday of TAU Governor and Honorary Fellow Mrs. Barbara Sieratzki, who was recognized for her decades-long commitment to TAU, her support for research conducted in the framework of the Heinrich (Yehezkel) Sieratzki Chair in Neurology and her role as a driving force behind the University’s German Friends since its founding. Mrs. Sieratzki’s son, Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki, who founded the Prize together with his mother in 2009, noted that his parents visited Israel for the first time in 1956, the same year that Tel Aviv University was established. “Since then my mother’s love for this country and her dedication to supporting education has never stopped growing,” he said.
models that harness social media; and Prof. Eyal Benvenisti of the Buchmann Faculty of Law, for his work on the concept of sovereignty.

The award was created by the Naomi Foundation, which honors the memory of Naomi Prawer Kadar, PhD, a lifelong educator and specialist in Yiddish children’s literature, the late wife of Dr. Avraham Kadar and mother of Maya Kadar Kovalsky, Nadav Kadar and Einat Kadar.

Ms. Lindsey Bodner, Executive Director of the Naomi Foundation, said “the Kadar Award recipients embody our values as a foundation. As leaders in their fields, they innovate through education, and as committed professors and teachers at TAU, they are passing both their groundbreaking work and their spirit of discovery on to the next generation.”

At TAU, the family also supports the Naomi Prawer Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program, the Global Research and Training Fellowship (GRTF) in Medical and Life Sciences, the Yiddish Faculty Project – a fund for the recruitment of Yiddish professors; and the Kadar Scholarships for Women in Business and Entrepreneurship – a fund for encouraging women to earn MBA degrees.

Constantiner Prize

The annual Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education was awarded to the Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva for its “activities advancing education, peace and social solidarity between different sectors in Israel.” The Prize, bestowed annually on a person or an organization working to bring Jewish traditions and texts into the 21st century, honors the late TAU benefactor from Mexico Dr. Jaime Constantiner, former Deputy Chairman of Tel Aviv University’s Board of Governors. Jaime’s son, TAU Governor Dr. Arturo Constantiner, a member of the American Friends of TAU’s Board of Directors, attended the ceremony with his wife, Caren. Executive Director of Givat Haviva, Yaniv Sagee, a TAU alumnus, said, “What makes us worthy of such of prize is what we do, day in and day out, which is to provide education for a shared society that actively brings Jewish and Arab young adults together.”
BOG in Brief

Governors Hosted by Israeli President

Several hundred TAU governors and friends were hosted by the President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, at his official residence in Jerusalem. President Rivlin provided his guests with a warm, heartfelt reception, lauding TAU for having been a small university which grew into a “world-famous institution.” He added, “Education is not just about learning and teaching. It is a way of life that drives this country forward.” TAU Board of Governors Chair Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel and TAU President Joseph Klafter presented Rivlin with a gift on behalf of the Board of Governors. Frenkel cited Rivlin for his “commitment to inclusion and style of interaction with the other.” President of the TAU French Friends Prof. François Heilbronn emceed the ceremony, and TAU Governor Selina Goren Komeran spoke on behalf of the governors.

Happy 60th, TAU!

Governors, friends and TAU staff kicked up their heels for a spectacular birthday bash of music, dance and gastronomic delights held at the Morris and Mania Leigh Avenue, adjacent to the Wolfson Building of Engineering on the TAU campus.

Bright Future for Dental School

Dazzling celebrations for the 40th anniversary of TAU’s Maurice and Gabriela Goldshleger School of Dental Medicine were held on campus and attended by American and French Friends of TAU, senior TAU officials, and School faculty, students and alumni. The party coincided with the launch of a $40 million, 5-year capital campaign in support of the School. Head of the School Prof. Ervin Weiss said, “The campaign will double our student population, implement a clinical curriculum based on high-tech digital dentistry, expand basic research and improve service to Israel’s needy and underserved populations.” TAU President Joseph Klafter noted the invaluable role played by the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity in its unwavering commitment to the Dental School over the last four decades. Also speaking were former International President of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity and TAU Governor Dr. Ben Williamowsky; Alpha Omega President Dr. Wendy Spektor; Director-General of the Ministry of Health Prof. Arnon Afek; and TAU Dean of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine Prof. Ehud Grossman.

French Friends Dedicate Treatment Rooms

As part of the Dental School festivities, the French Friends inaugurated two treatment rooms for advanced dental training and patient care. The ceremony was moderated by TAU Governor Dr. André Amiach. The Hodara Family Room was dedicated by Michèle Amiach honoring his parents, Anszel and Rifka Dawid, and his brother, Arie. The David and Julien Amiach, Stephan, Fabrice and Jérémy Boublil, Daniel and Olivier Cattan Room was also dedicated. French Friends President Prof. François Heilbronn thanked Dr. Amiach and all the donors for their efforts to revive the School and rebuild it over the last ten years.
Flomenbaum Research Fund Inaugurated

TAU’s newly dedicated Claudia and Ricardo Flomenbaum Research Fund for Biochemical Visualization of Molecular Processes will advance research in the laboratory of Dr. Roy Weinstain of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. The fund will help deepen understanding of the role biological molecules play in living organisms and accelerate development of novel chemical compounds for treating diseases and boosting the global food supply. The Fund was established in honor of Argentinean Friends members Claudia Flomenbaum, a TAU Governor, and her husband, Ricardo Flomenbaum, a lawyer. Mrs. Flomenbaum is a member of the Board of Directors of the Argentinean Friends Association and serves as its Deputy Treasurer. She has led a distinguished career in the banking and finance fields in Argentina, is a member of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange and of the Argentina Institute of Finance Executives, and is an active member of the Buenos Aires Jewish community. Mr. Flomenbaum is involved in activities promoting inter-faith dialogue between Jews and Christians.

Three Symposia

Food Security: Manna and More

Food security can be achieved only through global thinking and collaboration, according to international experts who participated in a symposium entitled “Transitioning the World into a More Sustainable and Food-Secure Future,” moderated by Prof. Danny Chamovitz, Dean of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. Prof. Ohad Nir, Head of TAU’s Manna Center Program in Food Safety and Security, said, “We need to ‘personalize’ agriculture just like we personalize medicine.” He stressed the need to bring knowledge from the field to the policy level. Dr. Segenet Kelemu, Director General of the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi and a 2016 TAU Honorary Doctor, spoke about her research on insects as a source of food. Prof. Itai Sened, Director of TAU’s Boris Mints Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions to Global Challenges, introduced the term “prosumer” and the need for producers to consume their own products because transport is too costly.

Geopolitics Today

Chairman of the Board of Governors Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel moderated a stimulating discussion of pressing geopolitical issues presented by three prominent public figures. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, a 2016 Honorary Doctorate recipient, addressed the dichotomy of Islamic extremism and Western democracy, appealing for a joint Jewish-Christian and Muslim message of peace; Ambassador Ron Prosor, former Permanent Representative of Israel at the United Nations, spoke of Israel’s problematic standing at the UN, noting that while the Middle East was “disintegrating around us, there is currently a convergence of interests between Israel and some Arab states as well as a real respect for Israel’s achievements in the field of agriculture and health.” The third speaker was Prof. Václav Klaus, Co-Founder of the Václav Klaus Institute and former President of the Czech Republic, who spoke on the transformation of the Czech economy from communism to free market capitalism following the Velvet Revolution.

Annual Gandel Symposium

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) and its implications for Israel were the focus of the 10th Annual John Gandel Symposium on the Middle East, held this year in Jerusalem. The symposium featured presentations by Deputy Head of the Foreign Ministry, Noam Katz, and TAU Governor and Chairman of the Board of Henry Schein, Stanley Bergman. The event was attended by hundreds of TAU governors, supporters and friends and was moderated by TAU Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad.
Yoran Symposium on Personalized Medicine

The Shalom and Varda Yoran Institute for Human Genome Research held the first Yoran Symposium on Personalized Medicine in association with Goldman Hirsch Partners and Ramot, TAU’s technology transfer arm. The symposium featured lectures by leading academics, including Prof. Noam Shomron of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology and Dr. Tami Geiger of the Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, both of TAU’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine. During the event, TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor and founder of the Institute, Varda Yoran, was recognized for her outstanding contribution to numerous scholarship funds and projects on campus, together with her late husband, Shalom, who received an Honorary Doctorate in 1998. Their generous gifts include the Yoran-Sznycer Research Fund in Jewish History, which awarded scholarships this year to six graduate students and researchers; the Varda Yoran Art Catalogue Fund; and three sculptures created by Mrs. Yoran herself and donated to the University.

Steinhardt Museum “Behind-the-Scenes” Tour

Governors and friends from the USA, Canada, Israel and France toured the construction site of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Israel National Center for Biodiversity Studies. The visitors viewed some of the rare exhibits of the 5 million specimens in the collection and heard presentations by Chair of the Steinhardt Museum, Prof. Tamar Dayan; Museum Director, Alon Sapan; and Experience Designer, Hadas Zemer. The Museum is slated for completion by early 2017.

Sunset Cocktail

TAU Governors, friends and leaders gathered for a Kabbalat Shabbat cocktail party at dusk on the terrace of the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Cornerstone Laid for Life Sciences Building

A cornerstone ceremony was held for a building that will serve as the new heart of life sciences at TAU. It will provide vitally-needed facilities to graduate students and faculty of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, including four state-of-the-art teaching laboratories. Dean of Life Sciences Danny Chamovitz said, “the building will serve as a literal and figurative bridge for the Faculty by connecting the two existing life sciences buildings. It will function as a focal point where graduate students can meet, study and brainstorm together in an informal setting.” TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “This building will advance student wellbeing, since it will give talented students the very best conditions to fulfil their potential. It will promote excellence among the next generations of life sciences researchers and professionals.”

Public Lecture by Rabbi Sacks

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, a 2016 TAU Honorary Doctor, gave a compelling lecture on the misuse of religion for violent ends to a packed audience at TAU’s Cymbalista Synagogue and Jewish Heritage Center. The audience of over 300 people was welcomed by Cymbalista Center Director Prof. Dan Laor, British Ambassador to Israel Mr. David Quarrey and Director of the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies Prof. Aviad Kleinberg. In his address, Prof. Laor paid special tribute to the Center’s founder, Norbert Cymbalista, who attended the event with his wife, Paulette. Rabbi Sacks acknowledged the Cymbalistas’ contribution, expressing his “honor to speak in this beautiful building – a miniature sanctuary bringing religious and secular people together.”
Sylvan Adams is as passionate a Zionist as he is a cyclist and sporting enthusiast. A second-generation TAU supporter, Adams and his wife, Margaret, recently made aliyah from Montreal, Canada, settling by the sea in Tel Aviv. “I call myself a ”Tel Avivian,” says Adams, referring to a term coined by locals for the vibrant city. “There are many ‘Israels’ but for me Tel Aviv is Israel. It’s secular and open and it’s where I feel most comfortable.”

Adams is a champion amateur cyclist and a World, Canadian and Maccabiah gold medalist. Sport is central to his life and central to his philanthropy. “I want to promote Israel as a startup sporting nation,” he says. “Israel is in the news every day, largely in a negative context. I want to change this channel by promoting normal activities that get publicity around the world – largely through sport. Sport is a great tool for advancing what I term ‘normal Israel,” he says.

The former President and CEO of Iberville Developments, a highly successful real estate company founded by his father, Marcel, Adams believes that TAU’s large size and location in Tel Aviv – at the economic heart of the country – makes it “the most important academic institution in Israel.” He is very excited about his upcoming project at TAU – establishing a center for sports medicine. The initiative will bring together the University’s Elite Sports Center and Sackler Faculty of Medicine, in cooperation with other relevant institutions in the field.

Adams’ strong family connection to Tel Aviv University dates back to the 1980s through his parents: the late Annie Adams, and Marcel, a 96 year-old Holocaust survivor. Both TAU Governors and Honorary Doctors, the couple was highly active in the Canadian Friends Association, with Annie serving as President of the Montreal Friends and Marcel as National Chair of the Canadian Friends. The family supports Fellowships at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Marcel and Annie Adams Institute for Business Management Information Systems at the Coller School of Management and the Adams Super-Center for Brain Studies.

“Taking my parents’ example, it was natural for me to continue the family legacy of giving, both to Israel and to Tel Aviv University,” says Adams.

Bringing the World to Israel

Among Adams’ many initiatives here is a planned velodrome – the Middle East’s first – that will train young Israeli cyclists to compete in the Olympic Games, as well as host international championships in Israel. “We will bring the world here and let them see the reality. Israel has a great story to tell,” he says.

Adams is also funding Israel’s first professional cycling team along with bicycle paths that will link suburbs of Tel Aviv. He is working on a project to bring the first three stages of professional cycling’s second most prestigious race, the Giro d’Italia, to Israel in 2018. The route will be changed to start in Jerusalem and end at the Vatican, thereby promoting peace and friendship not only between the nations of Israel and Italy, but also between Judaism and Christianity.

Adams, who holds an MBA from the University of Toronto, says he has made the move to Israel for good. He met his wife, Margaret, in 1983 on a kibbutz, where they were both volunteers. “After that real life took over, but we always had a fondness for Israel and visited frequently,” he says. The couple has four grown children living in North America. “We’ve reached a point in our lives now where we are both old enough and young enough to make aliyah,” he says. “Old enough in the sense that our children are grown, but young enough that we’ve come with energy to face our new society and challenges with enthusiasm.”
Vital Academic Department Named for Aubrey and Marla Dan

The fast changing media world of the early 21st century presents unprecedented challenges. To provide answers, the academic study of communication must combine theory and practice, and thereby produce well-rounded media professionals and scholars.

Now, TAU has announced the dedication of the Dan Department of Communication in honor of Aubrey and Marla Dan of Toronto, Canada. The family’s generous donation will help position the Dan Department as the national leader in the field.

TAU President Joseph Klafter said of the gift, “TAU is delighted to receive this transformative gift from the Dans, who have a deep love of Israel. This contribution will help to accelerate the momentum within the Department.”

Head of the Department Dr. Daniel Dor elaborated, “Aubrey and Marla’s gift will enable us to take a big step forward. We plan to establish the first laboratory of its kind for internet research, build TV and radio studios, continue to upgrade our study programs, offer scholarships for graduate students and post-docs, organize large international conferences, invite leading researchers and media personages from around the world, establish an annual award in communication research, and more.”

Aubrey Dan is a businessman and Tony Award-winning theater producer (Memphis). He is President of Dancap Private Equity Inc. and Dancap Productions Inc. Marla Dan most recently served as National President of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. The Dans are generous philanthropists, donating millions of dollars primarily to children, healthcare, women and education charities and other worthy causes in Canada and Israel.

“As Canadian friends of Tel Aviv University who are committed to education and research and to strengthening the bonds between Canada and Israel, it is with great pride that we invest in TAU’s position as a leader in the study of communications and public relations,” said Aubrey and Marla Dan. “Being able to bring Israeli communications to a new level of professionalism and integrity using the latest social media and modern communications technology will help promote Israel and its contribution to the world.”

7th Floor in Medicine Building

TAU’s Sackler School of Medicine operates Israel’s largest biomedical research and teaching complex and boasts the country’s highest concentration of scientists and clinicians, studying all aspects of human health and disease. Now, a much-needed refurbishment of the 7th floor of the Sackler School of Medicine Building is ensuring that talented Israeli medical students have access to the highest caliber teaching and state-of-the-art research facilities. The upgrade is also advancing the research of leading colorectal cancer scientist Prof. Rina Rosin-Arbesfeld. The floor’s refurbishment was a gift from loyal friends of the University in Brazil.

In his greetings at the dedication ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “Our medical faculty is not only the pride of the University, but it’s an essential part of our contribution to Israeli society. For the Faculty to remain on the cutting edge, however, we must continually upgrade our facilities and equipment so that our students and researchers can work in optimal conditions.”

TAU Awards UN Chief Highest Honor

Outgoing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was honored with a TAU George S. Wise Medal while on a visit to Israel. At the award ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “Mr. Secretary-General, you have been a tenacious supporter of global bridge-building. You have spoken up for the things that matter—freedom, equality and education. You have spoken against censorship and extremism and we are proud to honor you today with the George S. Wise Medal.”

In his response Ban said, “I accept this medal in the name of all the women and men of the UN working to advance peace, development and human rights around the world and around the clock.” He urged the “Startup Nation” to “help us all start up peace, understanding and reconciliation for a better world.”

Ban was accompanied by Danny Danon, Israel’s Permanent Representative to the UN.

The ceremony was followed by an Innovation and Research Symposium showcasing the contribution of Israel and TAU in areas ranging from food security and wastewater technology to cancer therapeutics and cybersecurity.
New Club at Student City

TAU has gained a vibrant new student club that will serve as a social hub at the busy Student City dormitory complex, which houses 1,700. The Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation Student Club was established by the Black family of California, whose support for the University over four decades spans research in the life sciences, medicine and Yiddish studies. The Club was dedicated in the presence of close family members and friends, including Beverly Hills real estate developer and philanthropist Stanley Black, Joan Ashton, Jill Black Zalben and Marvin Caesar, Janis Black Warner and Doug Warner, and senior TAU officials.

At the ceremony, Mr. Black said, “I believe it’s important to help Israel, and TAU is important for Israel’s future.” TAU President Joseph Klafter presented Mr. Black with a President’s Circle pin reserved for the University’s most generous donors.

Cyberweek Yields New Israel-US Defense Accord

A strategic defense agreement between Israel and the US was signed during the Sixth Annual International Cybersecurity Conference organized by TAU’s Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center, the Israeli National Cyber Bureau and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under the agreement, which was announced by Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Israel will be among the first countries to join the DHS Automated Indicator Sharing initiative, a new platform between governments and companies to counter cyberattacks.

The week-long conference drew some 5,000 delegates from 50 countries and featured top experts and cyber-celebrities. Participants included Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and top officials from the UN, foreign governments, academia and the private sector.

At the opening ceremony, TAU President Joseph Klafter said, “the Blavatnik Cyber Center’s success reflects TAU’s interdisciplinary scope and proven record of innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as its deep-rooted connections with the high-tech industry and defense agencies.”

French PM Lauds TAU Innovation

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls received TAU’s George S. Wise Medal in a ceremony attended by French dignitaries, members of the French Friends of TAU, French students, University governors and the media. Mr. Valls reaffirmed his admiration and support for Israel and specifically for Tel Aviv University.

“Israel and France have a deep, meaningful and multifaceted friendship,” Valls said. “The two countries share a commitment to scientific excellence and strong ties around the world based on economic collaboration, research and innovation.” Valls said that France can learn a lot from Israel and TAU: know-how, interdisciplinary study, cultivation of young entrepreneurs, and innovation.

The Prime Minister also thanked the TAU French Friends Association and its president, Prof. François Heilbronn, for being “ambassadors for this warm friendship.”

In conferring the Wise Medal upon Valls, TAU President Joseph Klafter and Board of Governors Chairman Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel praised him for his commitment to Israel and France’s Jewish community, especially at a time when anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiment is high.

Highlights

A Wynne-Win Situation

TAU bestowed one of its highest honors on Kathleen Wynne, Premier of the Canadian province of Ontario, during a trade mission of the Ontario government to Israel. Wynne was recognized with a TAU President’s Award for her deep social commitment in spearheading important educational, employment and civic initiatives, for strengthening the standing of Ontario within the global community and for her warm friendship and solidarity with the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Following the ceremony TAU President Joseph Klafter and Wynne signed an MOU for research and academic cooperation with McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and renewed an existing agreement with York University in Toronto.
Top Global Friends Events

**Panama City: Water World**
The Panamanian Friends hosted TAU water expert Prof. Dror Avnir at various events, including an elegant dinner for 40 guests hosted by Friends President Millie Bettak, in the presence of Israeli Ambassador to Panama and TAU alumnus Gil Artzyeli. From left: Senior Resource Executive for Latin America and Spain Herman Richter, Millie Bettak, Minister Miressi Endara, Prof. Dror Avnir, Amb. Gil Artzyeli and Israeli Embassy official Isabel Mendez.

**Spain: Immigration Crisis**
Over 120 participants heard expert opinions on the socioeconomic and cultural impact of recent refugee immigration to Europe at a symposium held by the Spanish Friends in collaboration with the municipality of Torremolinos. From left: Speakers Jose Maria Gay de Liebana and Teodoro Leon Gross, Spanish Friends Vice President Remedios del Rio, Co-President Patricia Nahmad, TAU’s Prof. Alberto Spektorowski, Spanish Friends Secretary Marie-Noelle Enzie Tissiace and TAU Governor Ben Nemenyi.

**London: Diamond Celebration**
The Tel Aviv University Trust kicked off its student scholarship campaign at a sparkling function in London, hosted by Christie’s and sponsored by the internationally renowned jewelers de GRISOGONO. TAU President Joseph Klatzer and the founder and Creative Director of de GRISOGONO, Fawaz Grusso, were in attendance to greet the 250 guests. From left: Prof. Joseph Klatzer, Christie’s International Consultant Arke Adler-Stottle, and Fawaz Grusso.

**Los Angeles: Sparking IDEAS**
At its second annual IDEAS conference in Los Angeles, American Friends of TAU put the spotlight on the future of digital technology from the perspectives of media & entertainment, and health & lifestyle. Attendees engaged in a multi-sensory experience with interactive VR stations, small workshops led by top experts, and presentations by renowned speakers. From left: Michael Terpin, CEO Transform Group; Lou Kerner, Partner, The Social Internet Fund; Buck Jordan, Managing Partner, Canyon Creek Capital; and Audrey Jacobs, Partner, OurCrowd.

**Frankfurt: Moral Obligations**
Over 100 guests of the German Friends attended a thought-provoking lecture by local rabbi Shlomo Raskin, who gave a rabbinical perspective on the many issues concerning refugees and immigrants. From left: Vice Chairman of the Frankfurter Sparkasse Board of Directors Stephan Bruhn, Rabbi Shlomo Raskin and President of the German Friends Uwe Becker.

**Zurich: Performing Arts**
The Swiss Friends hosted Dean of Arts Zvika Serper at a cocktail evening. Prof. Serper shared his expertise on traditional Japanese theater and the integration of its techniques and aesthetics in classical Western plays. Pictured: The Dybbuk—Between Two Worlds directed by Prof. Serper.

**Tel Aviv: Talking about Justice**
The Israeli Friends’ Business-Academic Club hosted Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked. “The hardest thing I have ever done in my life – harder than the primaries and harder than the election – was earning my degree in engineering here,” said TAU alumnus Shaked. From left: TAU President Joseph Klatzer, Minister Ayelet Shaked, Dr. Haim Suchowski and Israeli Friends Chairman Amnon Dick.

**Toronto: Baseballer Pays It Forward**
Toronto Blue Jays star Kevin Pillar was special guest at an exclusive cocktail evening held by the Canadian Friends (Ontario and Western Canada), where he launched the Pillar-Lambert Scholarship Fund in Accounting at TAU. From left: Phil Hart, Nathan Disenhouse, TAU Governor Rosie Potszak, Prof. Yair Bar Haim, Dov Potszak and Australian Friends Federal Executive Director Boaz Hal.

**Montreal: Recognizing Friendship**
Former President of the Canadian Friends and TAU Governor Herbert Marx was honored at a gala fundraiser attended by CFTAU leadership and members, together with TAU President Joseph Klatzer and Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad. During the event, keynote speaker Mayor of Montreal Denis Coderre was awarded the President’s Award. From left: Mayor Coderre and The Honorable Herbert Marx.

**Kazakhstan: Friends Launch**
Over 100 people attended the inauguration ceremony of the new Kazakhstan Friends, during which the Founding President, TAU Governor Dr. Alexander Machkevitch, was recognized for his outstanding efforts to open new avenues of cooperation and support for the University. From left: TAU Board of Governors Chairman Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel, Dr. Alexander Machkevitch and TAU President Joseph Klatzer.

**Australia: Combating PTSD**
The Australian Friends hosted TAU’s Prof. Yair Bar Haim, a world expert in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), at events in Sydney and Melbourne. From left: Australian Friends (Vic.) President Victor Wayne, TAU Governor Rosie Potszak, Prof. Yair Bar Haim, Dov Potszak and Australian Friends Federal Executive Director Boaz Hal.

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