



INSIDE:

LILY SAFRA

•
STEYER SCHOLARS

•
HON DOCS 2012

•
PROFILE: DAVID AZRIELI

MILES S. NADAL INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Calling All Technopreneurs

What are the attributes of a successful entrepreneur? What drives talented innovators? These were some of the questions asked by TAU benefactor and Honorary Doctor Miles S. Nadal at the inauguration of the new Miles S. Nadal Institute for Technological Entrepreneurship during the 2012 International Board of Governors Meeting. The institute's aim is to encourage originality at the University, especially among the up-and-coming generation of creative thinkers and inventors.

New technologies arising from university-based research often get stuck at the early stages of development. As a result, many discoveries with promising commercial potential never make it out of the lab. Mr. Nadal's support will help ensure that more lab breakthroughs make their way into the real world and improve quality of life.

"I believe that entrepreneurship is the key to Israel's economic success," said Nadal. "The

institute we are launching today will help spur this momentum by providing funding and business opportunities for promising applied research at the University," he said. Attending the ceremony were senior TAU officials and young entrepreneurs – members of StarTAU, the University's Entrepreneurship Center – and gifted high-school pupils participating in a national initiative spearheaded by Israeli President Shimon Peres to groom Israel's next generation of scientists.

Nadal drew inspiration from students including Sofia Naftaliev, whose business development mentoring program for TAU students, BEE – Business Entrepreneurial Experience, has already led to the formation of six start-ups this year.

A successful businessman by age 22, Nadal is founder, Chairman and CEO of MDC Partners, one of the leading global market-



Passionate Mentor of Creativity: Miles S. Nadal, Canada

 Innovation is in the Israeli DNA."

ing and communications organizations, with over 50 holdings. He is a prominent leader in the Toronto Jewish community, and supports a range of social, educational and healthcare initiatives in Canada and Israel. Voted Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 1999, Mr. Nadal has received dozens of awards for his contributions to society, among them the Human Relations Award (2001) and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Harold Lederman Award for Outstanding Community Service and Philanthropic Leadership (2007).

TAU President Joseph Klafter with Miles Nadal (right)




2012 Board of Governors Photo Highlights – Page 6



Miles S. Nadal (right), pictured with TAU President Joseph Klafter (left) and TAU Rector Aron Shai, was one of ten honorary doctorate recipients.



 500 people attended the gala outdoor party which was sponsored by Bank Discount.



Promoting Israeli Civil Society: Lily Safra

“There is nothing more important than protecting the powerless in our society and defending the dignity of the oppressed.”

The nexus of science, ethics and democracy will be the major focal point of research at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, inaugurated at the 2012 International Board of Governors meeting. The center is modeled on a similar institute at Harvard University.

The center was established by TAU Honorary Doctor Lily Safra, Chairwoman of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, as part of her deep belief in the importance of cooperation and dialogue between the academic community and the general public on the subject of ethics, as well as her hope for improved ethical deliberation in Israel.

“We are impressed and moved by Mrs. Safra’s generosity and involvement in con-

ceptualizing the center,” said Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Prof. Shai Lavi of the Buchmann Faculty of Law. “Ethics is not only about what we do, but about who we are... It is about our habits as they are embodied in our institutions, our culture and our politics. For this reason, the center will be paying close attention to the role of ethics in Israeli society within a local, regional and global context.”

Prof. Lavi also praised Mrs. Safra’s support for the Research Fellows Program that stands at the heart of the center’s activities. Under the program, outstanding doctoral and post-doctoral students will integrate insights from a variety of disciplines including law, philoso-

EDMOND J. SAFRA CENTER FOR ETHICS

Instilling Ethical Deliberation in All Walks of Israel Life

phy, social sciences, humanities, medicine and life sciences.

“In this way, not only is Mrs. Safra advancing ethics research and outreach, but she is helping Israel build up a cadre of ethics specialists who will fan out and influence policy and practice in diverse fields,” stressed Prof. Lavi.

Mrs. Safra has initiated manifold projects in memory of her late husband, Edmond J. Safra, one of the 20th century’s most prominent bankers and philanthropists. She is involved in a wide range of worthy causes around the world, including serving as co-founder and Honorary Chairperson of the International Sephardic Education Foundation, which has granted over 19,000 scholarships to gifted Israelis since 1977. Mrs. Safra holds numerous honorary doctorates and was made Officier de la Legion d’Honneur by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2011.

While at TAU, Mrs. Safra also inaugurated the **Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics**, headed by Prof. Ron Shamir of the Blavatnik School of Computer Science, incumbent of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Chair in Bioinformatics. The center will build upon the excellent track record of the bioinformatics teaching and research program that was set up by the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation in 2005, and that has single-handedly positioned TAU as the Israeli leader in a field that is critical for disease research and personalized medicine.

Security Insider’s View on a Nuclear Iran

Former Mossad head Meir Dagan spoke on the Iranian nuclear program at the annual **John Gandel Symposium** held by the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. Dagan recommended that the West amplify Iran’s domestic troubles vis-à-vis its minority populations and apply economic pressure and the threat of military intervention to dissuade the country from acquiring nuclear weapons. Also speaking was TAU Professor Emeritus Shimon Shamir, a former ambassador to Egypt and Jordan, who discussed the negative ramifications of the “Arab Spring,” among them social fragmentation, the rise of Islamic parties and economic hardship caused by the downturn in tourism and foreign investment. The moderator of the event was Dayan Center Director Prof. Uzi Rabi.



Prof. Shimon Shamir (left) and Meir Dagan

Carrying on a tradition of giving established by their late father, Stanley, sister and brother Helen Sarah Steyer and Thomas Mark Steyer inaugurated a scholarship fund that will make higher education more accessible to outstanding students. The Helen Sarah Steyer and Thomas Mark Steyer Scholarship Endowment Fund will provide full tuition and partial living expenses for seven students who are selected for their academic success, curiosity, open-mindedness, and reason and resolve in their intellectual pursuits, in spite of financial pressure.

The fund is designed to support the entire undergraduate education of recipients in any academic field. As this is an endowment, each Steyer Scholar who graduates will be replaced by a new Steyer Scholar, so that there are seven Steyer Scholars studying at Tel Aviv University at all times, in perpetuity.



Visionaries: Helen Sarah Steyer & Thomas Mark Steyer, USA

“Our father believed that education and understanding would lead to a more peaceful world ... this is a small attempt to realize this dream.”

HELEN SARAH STEYER AND THOMAS MARK STEYER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Using Education to Better the World

The siblings have created a number of major philanthropic projects at TAU, including the Stanley Steyer School of Health Professions in memory of their late father.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new scholarship fund, Ms. Steyer noted that their father's dream for the future had involved

Israel and higher education. “Our father believed that education and understanding would lead to a more peaceful world,” she said. “This endowment is a small attempt to realize this dream. If even one scholar grasps that knowledge then he or she will have come close to realizing our father's vision.”

Helen Sarah and Thomas, both TAU Governors since 1990, received honorary doctorates from the University during the 2012 Board of Governors meeting in recognition of their contribution to society.

The Steyer siblings grew up in Caracas, Venezuela, and now reside in the United States. Thomas is an accomplished businessman, and Helen Sarah, a former Spanish-language specialist and university lecturer, now focuses on philanthropy. Both in Israel and their home communities in the United States, the Steyers are involved in a wide range of causes, including education, healthcare, youth welfare, Jewish heritage, arts and culture.

RAYMOND AND BEVERLY SACKLER PRIZE IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Dr. Raymond and Beverly Sackler, USA

Maintaining Israel's position at the forefront of the world community of science and scholarship

Pinpointing Excellence

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences was awarded this year to Professors David Charbonneau of Harvard University and Sara Seager of MIT for their outstanding achievements in the study of extrasolar planets. The prize was established through the generosity of TAU Governor Dr. Raymond Sackler and his wife, Beverly, benefactors of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences and over two dozen major projects at the University. The prize, which was established in 2000, promotes dedication to excellence and originality by rewarding outstanding young researchers in the physical sciences and enhancing the visibility of Israel in the international scientific arena.



From left: TAU BOG Chairman Harvey Krueger, Helen Sarah Steyer, Thomas Mark Steyer and TAU President Joseph Klafter



Prof. Sara Seager and Prof. David Charbonneau

Major Prizes 2012

Constantiner Prize Awarded to Hebrew-Language Trailblazer

The 2012 **Dr. Jaime Constantiner Prize in Jewish Education** was awarded to the Levinsky College of Education and its president, Prof. Lea Kasan, commemorating 100 years since its establishment. Levinsky College was the first institution to teach in Hebrew before the State of Israel was founded. The award honors the late Dr. Jaime Constantiner for his dedication to Jewish education in the Diaspora, and was presented by his son, TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor Dr. Arturo Constantiner.



From left: Prof. Lea Kasan, Caren and Dr. Arturo Constantiner, head of the Constantiner School Prof. Rafi Nachmias, TAU Rector Aron Shai

Sieratzki Prize Awarded to Up-and-Coming Neuroscientists

The 2012 **Sieratzki Prize for Advances in Neuroscience** was awarded by TAU Governor and Honorary Fellow Barbara Sieratzki and her son, Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki, to Dr. Shira Knafo of the Severo Ochoa Center for Molecular Biology (CSIC) in Madrid and Dr. Adrian Israelson of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at the University of California, San Diego. In addition, Dr. Izhak Michaelievski of TAU and Dr. Ami Citri of Hebrew University were presented with special recognition awards.

During the ceremony, Prof. Nir Giladi was welcomed as the new incumbent of the Heinrich (Yehezkel) Sieratzki Chair in Neurology.



From left: Prof. Illana Gozes, Head of TAU's Adams Super-Center for Brain Studies, Dr. Shira Knafo and Dr. Jechil (Harry) Sieratzki

Perlman Prize Awarded to Iconic Entrepreneur Benny Landa



TAU Governor Benny Landa

TAU Governor Benny Landa, founder, chairman and CEO of Landa Labs and founder and retired head of HP-Indigo, was the recipient of the 2012 **Max Perlman Award for Excellence in Global Business** of the Max Perlman Center for Global Business at the Faculty of Management—Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration.



Dan David Prize Recognizes



Carrying on a tradition established in 2002 by the late TAU benefactor, Governor and Honorary Doctor, Dan David, the Dan David Prize for 2012 was awarded to individuals with exceptional achievements in the sciences, arts and humanities. Each \$1 million prize is awarded in three dimensions – past, present and future.

This year's prize for the past, "History and Biography," was shared by Dr. Robert Conquest, a British historian who worked to expose the realities of Stalinist rule, and the Rt. Hon. Sir Martin Gilbert,

Ramniceanu Prize Recognizes Intel Israel Executive

The 2012 **Hugo Ramniceanu Prize in Economics** was presented to top Intel Israel executive Maxine Fassberg for her exceptional contribution to the development of Israeli business, economy and technology, and her involvement in a wide range of social and educational projects. Ms. Fassberg generously donated the prize as a TAU scholarship.



From left: French Friends President Prof. François Heilbronn, TAU President Joseph Klafter, Maxine Fassberg, and the daughter of the late Hugo Ramniceanu, Monique Barel

2012 Global Role Models



Back row, standing from left: Lady Esther Gilbert, TAU Governor Ariel David, Prof. David Botstein, Prof. Eric Lander, William Kentridge, Dr. J. Craig Venter, and TAU President Joseph Klaffer. Front row, seated: Dr. Robert Conquest and TAU Governor and Honorary Fellow Gabriela David

the official biographer of Winston Churchill. Gilbert's prize was accepted by his wife, Lady Esther Gilbert, in his absence.

South African artist and social commentator William Kentridge won for the present, "Plastic Arts," while the prize in the future dimension, "Genome Research," was shared by Prof. David Botstein of Princeton University, Prof. Eric Lander of the Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT and Dr. J. Craig Venter of the J. Craig Venter Institute and CEO of Synthetic Genomics Inc.

Adler Prize Focuses on Children's Rights

The 2012 **Renata Adler Memorial Award** was presented to Prof. Dan Shnit, a former head of TAU's Bob Shapell School of Social Work, during the Annual Symposium of the Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection. Prof. Shnit was recognized for his outstanding academic and civic contributions to furthering children's rights.



From left: TAU Rector Aron Shai, Prof. Dan Shnit and Prof. Tammie Ronen, Head of the Renata Adler Memorial Research Center for Child Welfare and Protection and Dean of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences

TAU Honorary Doctorates 2012

JUSTICE:

Judge Saviona Rotlevy (Ret.), Israel

Distinguished jurist and defender of children's and civil rights



DISCOVERY:

Prof. Ronald Raphael Coifman, USA

Pioneer of computational tools for advancing numerous scientific fields



ARTS:

Maureen Lipman, UK

Foremost British actress and comedienne for 45 years



MEDICINE:

Prof. Jörg Hacker, Germany

Trailblazer in the understanding of the genetic basis of bacterial disease



OPPORTUNITY:

Helen Sarah Steyer, USA

Noted Spanish-language specialist and major philanthropist



OPPORTUNITY:

Thomas Mark Steyer, USA

Accomplished businessman, Jewish community leader and major philanthropist



ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

Miles S. Nadal, Canada

Global business leader and philanthropist



CULTURE:

Yehoram Gaon, Israel

Iconic national singer, actor and public personality



PUBLIC POLICY:

Prof. Robert D. Putnam, USA

World-renowned researcher in comparative political science, foreign policy and civic involvement



EDUCATION:

Miki Nevo, Israel

Educational leader and social visionary for Israel's periphery





TAU Governor and Honorary Fellow Gabriela David is pictured with a winner of the "Name Your Hero Competition," an essay contest for high school students sponsored by the Dan David Prize.



Ayelet Tal (left), Director of TAU's Development and Public Affairs Division, is pictured with British actress and 2012 TAU Honorary Doctor Maureen Lipman, who took part in the 2012 UK Legacy Mission. Special events on campus featuring Lipman were held in cooperation with the British Council.



Two students from Ma'aseh-The Center for Young Volunteers in Israel's Periphery presented at the 2012 Honorary Doctorates conferment ceremony.



Governors joined in the fun at the "Summer's Night Party in White" held in TAU's Sam Mallah Palm Tree Garden with the generous support of Bank Discount.



Dame Shirley Porter, head of the Campus Development and Maintenance Committee, delivered an on-site progress report on the Porter EcoBuilding during a tour of TAU building projects for committee members and governors.



TAU's Prof. Menachem Fisch spoke at the inauguration of the Center for Religious and Interreligious Studies, a joint TAU-Cambridge University initiative.



TAU Vice President Raanan Rein greets Mexican artist Bella Gold (left) at the opening of her exhibition, "Apprehended Subject," at the Sarita and Noel Wertheim Hall of the Elias Sourasky Central Library. Sourasky Library Director Naama Sheftelowitz is pictured center.

THE ROTHSTEIN-WILLIAMOWSKY POSTGRADUATE DENTAL CLINICS

Rejuvenating Facilities

Reflecting the reinvigoration of TAU's Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, a \$2.7 million campaign was launched to fund much-needed post-graduate clinics. The campaign is a joint initiative of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, which was instrumental in founding TAU's dental school four decades ago, and the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. The campaign is co-chaired by Dr. Marc Rothman, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and chair of the US Alpha Omega Foundation, and Steven William Kess, Vice President for Global Professional Relations at Henry Schein, Inc. The clinics are named in honor of two longtime leaders dedicated to revitalizing the school – Dr. Ben Williamowsky and the late Ralph Rothstein.

From left at the cornerstone-laying ceremony: AFTAU Chairman Jon Gurkoff; Head of the Dental School Prof. Ilana Eli; Steven Kess; Danielle Williamowsky and her grandfather Dr. Ben Williamowsky; TAU French Friend André Amiach; Dr. Marc Rothman; and Dr. Allen Finkelstein



The unveiling of the 2012 Legacy Mission Honor Wall at TAU

UK LIVING LEGACY MISSION 2012

Unparalleled Access to Israel

Building on the success of Tel Aviv University's first UK Living Legacy Mission in 2011, a contingent of British Jews took part in the exciting and moving 2012 mission, organized by the Tel Aviv University Trust – Great Britain. The concept behind the Legacy Mission is that in return for leaving a bequest to TAU, participants are hosted on an intellectually stimulating trip to the campus and across Israel with exclusive access to the University's most outstanding researchers and some of Israel's top leaders, politicians and security experts.

HELENE WESTREICH FILM AND TELEVISION STUDIO

Sealing a Family Bond

Former AFTAU Chairman William F. Cohen with his sister, Gail White, established the Helene Westreich Film and Television Studio at TAU in memory of their mother, Helene Westreich, philanthropist, humanitarian and TAU supporter. The state-of-the-art facility will play an important part in the continuing success of the TAU film school in producing award-winning film professionals. "This film studio has allowed us to bond our mother's life-long love of film with the family's longstanding commitment to Tel Aviv University," said Cohen at the inauguration ceremony.



Billy Cohen and Gail White

THE SAMI SAGOL SCHOOL OF NEUROSCIENCE

Positioning Israel as a Global Leader in Brain Studies

It took a bold vision to create TAU's new Sagol School of Neuroscience, an interdisciplinary framework uniting all teaching activities in brain studies across seven faculties at the University. This vision – to position Israel and Tel Aviv University as a top international training center for neuroscientists – is being realized by TAU Governor and benefactor Sami Sagol.

One of Israel's legendary entrepreneurs, business leaders and philanthropists, Sami Sagol is a well-known champion of brain studies in Israel. He and his wife, Tova, founded the Joseph Sagol Fellowship Program in Brain Studies at TAU a few years ago and supported the establishment of the Joseph Sagol Neuroscience Center at the TAU-affiliated Chaim Sheba Medical Center. They have funded projects, laboratories and companies that advance brain research across the country.

Sagol was awarded a TAU honorary doctorate within the framework of a TAU-hosted international Brain Plasticity Symposium and in the presence of President of Israel Shimon Peres. The three-day conference, held in January 2012 and attended by 650 people, including three Nobel laureates, launched the Sagol School.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sagol, who was also celebrating his 70th birthday, paid tribute to his late parents, whose legacy led him to help make the world a better and healthier place. He noted that they had both suffered from neurodegenerative diseases, and that this had spurred him on to support research in the

field. "I am convinced that the brain is our national resource and therefore brain research is a national mission – one which has been taken up so admirably by President Peres, who acts as my role model in this endeavor," he said.

A powerhouse in brain studies

The first of its kind in Israel, the Sagol School aims to create a new breed of neuroscientist – one who is able to generate fresh and exciting directions for understanding brain function and curing brain disorders. This mission is made possible through the school's remarkable interdisciplinary team of 55 researchers and more than 100 students. All of them are applying molecular, cellular and behavioral approaches toward understanding brain function and dysfunction.

Home to the highly competitive Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program for Outstanding Students, the Sagol School attracts top PhD candidates throughout the country and supports their original research ideas. The school also hosts a BSc program for talented undergraduate students and a new MSc program for multidisciplinary research and training.



Champion of Science: Sami Sagol, Israel

Q I am convinced that brain research is a national mission."

Social commitment

Born in Turkey, Sagol immigrated to Israel with his family at age 15 and built up the Keter Group, the company founded by his father, from a small local business into a global powerhouse in the home improvement consumer products industry. Keter in general, and Sami personally, have garnered numerous awards, among them Israel's "Industry Prize" and the French Legion of Honor Medal.

In addition to his business activities, Sagol and his wife support numerous initiatives promoting higher education, science, coexistence and the bridging of social and economic gaps. Among these are "Mifalot," a program for youth development through sport and social education in which 20,000 children participate, and "d-vision," an incubator for excellence in design and innovation.

TAU President Joseph Klafter described Sagol as a "unique and remarkable individual who upholds the qualities of leadership and originality and whose social commitment crosses ethnic, religious and geographic bounds and contributes to a better and more equitable future for tens of thousands of his fellow citizens."



Pathbreaker: Dame Shirley Porter, UK and Israel

Carrying the Environmental Torch at TAU

THE PORTER SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ECOBUILDING

Through the persistence and dedication of Dame Shirley Porter, founder of TAU's Porter School of Environmental Studies, the School's EcoBuilding, which is currently under construction, will receive LEED Platinum status, the highest accreditation of the US Green Building Council and the leading standard for building worldwide. The EcoBuilding will significantly raise the bar for green building in Israel and will provide a dedicated space for environmental technologies. "The building will be the hub of environmental knowledge and research for the State of Israel and a statement about the necessity for sustainability," said Dame Shirley.

From left:
Chairman of
the Board of
Governors
Harvey
Krueger,
Dame Shirley
Porter and
TAU President
Joseph Klafter

THE ALLIANCE CENTER FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

TAU's Alliance Center for Iranian Studies is the largest center of its kind in the Middle East outside Iran, and the first in Israel. Founded seven years ago with the backing of Lord David Alliance of the UK and other donors, the center responds to the pressing global need for knowledge on Iran. Center researchers move beyond media sound bites to pursue a more thoughtful and nuanced examination of the country's role as a political, theological and cultural power.

The latest milestone for the center was its recent dedication in the name of Lord Alliance, a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist. Born in Iran, Lord Alliance moved to England at the age of 17. He was the founder of Coats Viyella, a successful manufacturing firm operating in 67 countries, is Chairman and main shareholder of a direct mail order company and has businesses in finance and property. He received a CBE in 1984, a knighthood in 1989 and a life peerage in 2004, among numerous other honors and accolades.

In 2009, Lord Alliance was awarded a TAU honorary doctorate in recognition of his invaluable service to society, including his decades-long commitment to strengthening Israel's national security and his visionary philanthropic activities through the Alliance Family Foundation, which advances scientific, educational, welfare and health causes in Israel and Britain.

The Alliance Center is highly active in the national and international academic community, and has co-sponsored numerous international conferences in Israel, the US and Germany. The center also hosts expert lectur-

ers from all over the world in the framework of its Iran Forum, a colloquium dedicated to discussing diverse and multifaceted aspects of Iranian society. *Iran Pulse*, a monthly overview of Iranian current affairs, provides updates on the fast-changing and multi-dimensional state of affairs in contemporary Iran.

Equally important is the center's leading role in preparing the next generation of scholars of

Iran, having sponsored more than 12 doctoral and three post-doctoral scholars – more than all other universities in Israel combined.

Guest speakers at the dedication ceremony for the center included Lord David Owen, the British Foreign Secretary at the time of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and Lord Peter Mandelson, a former European Union Trade Commissar and key figure in British politics.

Turning Israel into a World Center on Iran



**Keen Believer in Knowledge as Power:
Lord David Alliance, UK**

**Goal: Generating new insights into Iran and
nurturing tomorrow's experts in the field**



From left:
Alliance
Center for
Iranian Studies
Director Prof.
Meir Litvak,
Lord David
Alliance, TAU
President
Joseph Klafter,
Lord Alliance's
son, Joshua,
and wife,
Homa

DR. HABIB LEVY COLLECTION FOR JEWISH IRANIAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Burnishing a Family Legacy



**Dedicated to Preserving Cultural
Inheritance: Laura Merage, USA**

“My grandfather dreamed about eradicating anti-Semitism through education, and he would have been proud to have his collection of rare books here at Tel Aviv University.”

A long-standing philanthropist and advocate of higher education, Laura Merage, together with her husband, David, recently inaugurated the Dr. Habib Levy Collection for Jewish Iranian History and Heritage in honor of her late grandfather. Israel's first and only library dedicated to Iranian history, the collection comprises the private library of the late Dr. Levy, including rare books on Persian culture and Jewish history.

The books will serve as another vital resource for the faculty of TAU's Alliance Center for Iranian Studies, which the Merages supported from the start by establishing the **Dr. Habib Levy Program in Iranian Jewish History**. Housed in the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Building, the Dr. Habib Levy Collection overlooks a charming Persian garden, also a gift of the Merage Family.

President Joseph Klafter, who led the inaugural ceremony, reflected on Laura Merage's steadfast commitment to continuing her grandfather's mission of preserving the history and culture of the Iranian Jewish community: “I believe he would be very proud of you today. Not only are you perpetuating your own family legacy, but also that of Iranian Jewry.” A medical professional, scholar and Zionist with a lifelong dedication to preserving history, Dr. Habib Levy believed in the power of education as an agent of change.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by a colloquium on the Jews of Iran and Israel held by the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies and The Dr. Habib Levy Program for Iranian Jewish History.



**Committed to the University:
Pouran and Parviz Izak
Nazarian, USA**

Turning TAU into a
welcoming home for all



A rendering
of the new
building by
TAU Architect
Yoram Eldan

THE POURAN AND PARVIZ IZAK NAZARIAN BUILDING

Symbol of TAU's Community Spirit

The cornerstone was laid for one of Tel Aviv University's most exciting new building initiatives: the Pouran and Parviz Izak Nazarian Building. The structure, which houses the Citizens Empowerment Center in Israel (CECI), will also house the new Yehiel

Ben-Zvi Visitors Pavilion, thereby upgrading the University's visitor facilities to be on a par with other world-class institutions. The Pavilion will include a gallery for exhibitions showcasing the history of TAU and its research achievements, as well as a 120-seat hall.

The Nazarian Building is being funded by TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor Parviz Izak Nazarian, founder of the CECI and benefactor of major projects at TAU that include Iranian studies and scholarships. Mr. Nazarian attended the ceremony in the company of his brother Younes Nazarian; daughter and coordinator of the family's philanthropic activities, Dora Kadisha; TAU President Joseph Klafter;

CECI President Uri Dori; and President of the Academic Center of Law and Business and founder of the field of Iranian studies at TAU, Prof. David Menashri.

Addressing the attendees, Prof. Klafter said the building "will become a physical symbol for the tremendous contribution of the Nazarian family to civil society in Israel and to advancing the security and prosperity of the country," and that it will become a "university icon, representing our community spirit, and our advanced research, teaching and public outreach capabilities."

Speaking on behalf of the family, Dora Kadisha remarked, "For our family, TAU has been a home away from home for many years. We are happy to build a monument that will be the home for many important events and that will continue the tradition of promoting citizen empowerment that we started here."



From left:
Dora Kadisha,
Parviz Izak
Nazarian and
TAU President
Joseph Klafter

Visitors Pavilion Commemorates Yehiel Ben-Zvi

During his 36 years of dedicated service to the University, Yehiel Ben-Zvi, the late TAU Vice President, raised hundreds of millions of dollars and built up a network of lifetime friends and supporters. In celebration of his warmhearted approach to developing the University, TAU joined forces with the Ben-Zvi family and other generous donors in creating the Yehiel Ben-Zvi Visitors Pavilion. "With this project, I feel my father's legacy will be continued," said Daniel Ben-Zvi, Yehiel's son. He went on to thank all the donors to the project: Karl-Heinz and Hannelore Kipp, Bela Gerstel, David Birène, Hanna and Shalom Blustein, Dina Ettinger and Tamar Rudich, Aviva Felber, François Heilbronn, Georg Katcz, Woolf and Helene Marmot, David and Shoshana Rabinovici, Loni Silleran Moos, and both the German and Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University.



Daniel Ben-Zvi

Top Global Friends Events

New York:

Carnegie Hall Debut

The Symphony Orchestra of TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music made a spectacular debut at Carnegie Hall in May 2012 at a fundraising gala organized by the American Friends of TAU.



Buenos Aires:

Analyzing Finances

Over 200 professionals attended the opening of the Argentinean Friends' (AUTA) sixth annual lecture series on the domestic and international sociopolitical situation. The first event, a panel discussion held at the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, was attended by, from left: Silvio Becher (AUTA); Dr. José Siaba Serrate, economic and financial consultant; Lic. Javier Finkman, HSBC's Chief Economist for Latin America; Hugo Bliffeld and Jack Orman (AUTA); and panel moderator Lic. Claudio Zuchovicki, Capital Markets Development Manager at the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange.



Lisbon: Conference

Charms Governors

The 21st TAU European Conference was held in February 2012 in Lisbon, Portugal, and treated the 70 participants – board members and dear friends of TAU – to tours of Lisbon's rich artistic and cultural heritage, as well as stimulating lectures and round table discussions by TAU and Lisbon university professors.



Tel Aviv: Secrets of Shalit Deal

David Meidan, key broker in the return of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit, gave a rare briefing on the intricacies of the deal to an exclusive audience of TAU Israeli Friends' Business-Academic Club members. Pictured from left: Executive Director of the Israeli Friends Sigal Adar, David Meidan and TAU President Joseph Klafter.



Glasgow:

Annual Recital

This year's recital and luncheon, organized by the TAU Trust Scottish Group and University of Glasgow Principal Prof. Anton Muscatelli, was held at the Principal's Lodging. The recital featured soprano Goni Knaani (pictured) and pianist Daniel Strahilevitz, students of TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.



São Paulo: 450 Attend Medical Symposium

TAU's Dr. Uri Seligsohn (pictured) of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine participated in an International Symposium on Hemostasis and Thrombosis held in collaboration with the Brazilian Friends of TAU. The event at Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein drew 450 practitioners and researchers.



Sydney: Forging Ties with Macquarie University

TAU and Sydney's Macquarie University announced a formal Memorandum of Understanding at an event held in May 2012. Pictured from left: TAU's Prof. Oded Lipschits; Dr. Michael Joel AM; Israeli Ambassador to Australia Yuval Rotem; and President of the New South Wales Chapter of the Australian Friends, David Dinte.



Melbourne: How to Grow a \$2.5 Billion Company

Almost 300 people attended this year's Australian Friends of TAU (Victoria) Annual Oration. Prof. Silviu Itescu, founder and chief executive of stem cell company Mesoblast, shared just how his company became a world pacesetter in biotech. The event commemorated the late Ron Krongold, past President of the Victor Chapter. Pictured from left: Rosie Potaznik, Danielle Krongold, Susan Krongold and President of the Victoria Chapter, Dr. Victor Wayne.



London: City-Wide Student Films

The TAU Trust in the UK hosted its 6th Annual Student Film Screening of works from TAU's Department of Film and Television in June at the Odeon Swiss Cottage Cinema in London. For the first time, the Trust was asked to collaborate with a larger, London-wide event, SERET, London's Israeli Film & Television Festival.



Montreal, Toronto and Montevideo: New Presidents

Irwin G. Beutel (left) has stepped into the position of President of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, Montreal and Eastern Region. Beutel has spent a lifetime of exemplary dedication to the Montreal community and numerous Israel-based organizations.

Jeff Wagman (center) was elected President of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, Toronto and Western Canada. Wagman has been a part of CFTAU for more than 15 years, is a TAU alumnus, and is past chair of BBYO, a worldwide Jewish youth organization.

Bernardo Faincaig (right) has been appointed President of the Uruguayan Friends of Tel Aviv University. A TAU alumnus in economics, he is an active member of the Uruguayan Jewish community and has strong personal ties to Israel.



Rendering
of expanded
school building



PROFILE: DAVID J. AZRIELI

A Builder of Dreams

**David J. Azrieli, Canada and Israel,
Founder of the David Azrieli School
of Architecture**

“Generations of graduates will advance Israel’s capacity to create better homes, schools for children, and industrial plants and office buildings, so that Israel can grow and prosper.”

From pioneering Israel’s shopping malls to constructing the nation’s tallest commercial towers, TAU benefactor, Governor and Honorary Doctor David J. Azrieli has left an indelible mark on Israel’s urban landscape and gained worldwide recognition as an innovative entrepreneur, architect and designer. Some 20 years ago, Azrieli’s vision extended beyond his building enterprise toward creating a world-class school of architecture in Tel Aviv, Israel’s commercial center. TAU is privileged to say that he chose to do so at Tel Aviv University.

With the Azrieli family’s support, the David Azrieli School of Architecture has today become an exciting, thriving center of excellence with an international reputation. It is high in demand by students and employers across Israel. Study programs train students and expose them to the most advanced design theories and to interdisciplinary themes in environmental studies and digital art. Thanks

to the Azrieli Foundation, the school hosts a distinguished lecture series, purchases state-of-the-art equipment for its labs, and holds major conferences.

When the school needed space to launch a master’s program in architecture, Azrieli stepped in and personally designed two floors for the new wing of the School of Architecture.

The Azrieli Foundation’s support of achievement at TAU also comes in the form of the prestigious, Israel-wide Azrieli Fellows Program, which awards annual fellowships to a number of TAU’s most outstanding master’s and doctoral students in the fields of interdisciplinary and applied sciences, education, and architecture and urban planning.

Overcoming Adversity

David J. Azrieli’s life is an inspiring account of triumph over tragedy. A man of indefatigable energy, creativity and intellectual acuity, his story is also one of philanthropic vision and commitment to the Jewish people.

Born in Poland in 1922, Azrieli lost his parents, younger brother and sister in the Holocaust. In 1939, at the age of 17, he fled Poland and made his way through Russia and Central Asia, always one step ahead of the Nazis. He arrived in Palestine at the end of 1942 where he worked to support his studies in architecture at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. His studies were cut short in 1948, when he joined the IDF and

fought in Israel’s War of Independence. After the war, he traveled and lived in South Africa, England and the United States, before settling in Canada in 1954.

Azrieli’s entry into real estate was humble, beginning with the construction of four houses in a Montreal suburb. Today, his architectural vision can be seen in office towers, high-rise residences and shopping centers in Canada, the United States and Israel. In 1998, Azrieli completed the first phase of the Azrieli Center, which quickly became the most innovative office and shopping complex in Israel. In 2008, Azrieli completed the Square tower and dramatically redefined the Tel Aviv skyline.

Azrieli completed his BA degree from the Thomas More Institute at the University of Montreal in Canada. A lifelong learner, Azrieli returned to school and in 1997 completed a Master’s of Architecture at Carleton University in Ottawa. Today he is a member of the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada (RAIC) and the Israel Association of United Architects.

Over the years, Azrieli’s philanthropy and contributions to society have been recognized. In 1984, he was named to the Order of Canada, the country’s highest civilian honor. In 1999, he was named “chevalier” of the Ordre National du Québec, the Province’s highest civilian distinction. In addition, he is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, including an honorary doctorate from TAU in 1996.