

TAU

Tel Aviv University Review | 2018

Surprising
Research
Duos



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
Pursuing the Unknown



TAU

Tel Aviv University Review | 2018

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Dear Friends,

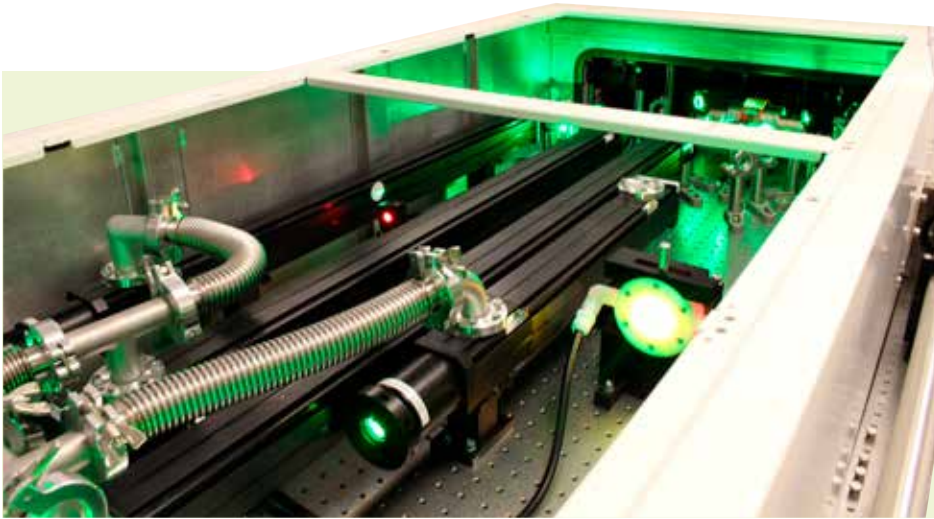
The world's complex challenges require multifaceted solutions. These solutions – whether they involve finding a cure for cancer or deciphering ancient texts – can often no longer be generated by research focused within a single academic field. Rather, they are best realized through fertile collaborations both on and off the campus.

In this issue of *TAU Review*, we look at some exciting new scientific directions that have resulted from unique pairings of researchers from different fields. We also describe new frameworks for cross-disciplinary dialogue such as the Manna Center Program's Food Safety and Security Summer Institute, expansion of the Edmond J. Safra Ethics Center, the Roman Abramovich Building for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, the Zimin Institute for Engineering Solutions Advancing Better Lives, and the TAU Impact program for embedding social leadership into the arts, humanities and sciences curricula.

At Tel Aviv University we are making it a priority to create conditions to foster a spirit of creativity and innovation. Our \$1 billion Global Campaign is providing the resources and infrastructure to make it possible. I'm pleased to report that, as of press time, we've almost reached the halfway mark with pledges totaling \$485 million. We invite our veteran and new supporters to join us on this inspiring shared journey.

Warm regards,

Professor Joseph Klafter
President, Tel Aviv University



Laser Power

A Discovery That Will Make Your Jaw Drop

An adult human jawbone complete with teeth discovered at Israel's Misliya cave, one of several prehistoric cave sites located on Mount Carmel, has been dated to 177,000-194,000 years ago. The TAU finding, recently published in *Science*, pushes back the history of *Homo sapiens* migration from Africa by at least 50,000 years.

"This discovery – that early modern humans were present outside of Africa earlier than commonly believed — completely changes our view on modern human evolution and dispersal," says Prof. Israel Hershkovitz of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine and Head of the Dan David Center for Human Evolution and Biohistory Research at TAU's Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. Prof. Hershkovitz led the international team of anthropologists who conducted the study in collaboration with archaeologist Prof. Mina Weinstein-Evron of the University of Haifa. Together, the team applied various dating techniques to determine that the jawbone is at least 170,000

years old. They also analyzed the remains using microCT scans and 3D virtual models, carried out at digital laboratories at TAU's Shmunis Family Anthropology Institute, to compare it with other *hominin* fossils discovered in parts of Africa, Europe and Asia. The research was supported by the Dan David Foundation.

The common consensus of anthropologists has been that modern humans appeared in Africa roughly 160,000-

200,000 years ago, and that they began migrating out of Africa only around 100,000 years ago. "But if the fossil at Misliya dates to roughly 170,000-190,000 years ago, the entire narrative of the evolution of *Homo sapiens* must be pushed back by at least 100,000-200,000 years," says Prof. Hershkovitz, who suggested that "... while Africa was the origin of our species, some of our traits must have evolved or been acquired outside of Africa".



Maxilla
upper jaw

Since their invention in the 1960s, lasers have been used in medicine, security, manufacturing and more. Now, in a landmark for Israeli science, the largest and most powerful laser in Israel has been installed in the lab of Dr. Ishay Pomerantz of TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy. It can fire single pulses at about 1,000 times the nation's total electricity consumption.

"Our work in the lab focuses both on understanding how intense light interacts with matter to accelerate particles and on using these particles to study frontier areas like materials science, plasma physics and nuclear physics," says Pomerantz. The team will also be attempting to scale down the size and cost of the laser equipment to make it more readily accessible for cancer research in hospitals and for contraband

detection in airports.

The High-Intensity Lab was established thanks to the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program, which provides over \$100 million in scholarships and educational activities to researchers and universities participating in the program. Dr. Pomerantz was a 2016-17 Zuckerman Scholar and a 2016-17 Blavatnik Young Faculty Recruit.

TAU is Making TLV Smarter



Tel Aviv is a smart city – designated for its digital outreach to citizens through smartphone apps, real-time transportation updates and digital bill payment. But do all Tel Aviv citizens enjoy equal access to services? And do these services answer the needs of all citizens?

MSc student Shahaf Donio created a complex statistical model to map the city and pinpoint exactly who is using the city's digital services, where, and why. Funded by the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at TAU, the project brought

together Donio and her advisor Dr. Eran Toch of the Fleischman Faculty of Engineering with Prof. Michael Birnhack, expert in digital era privacy, and Prof. Issachar Rosen-Zvi, local government law specialist, both of the Buchmann Faculty of Law, as well as with Dr. Tali Hatuka, Head of the Laboratory of Contemporary Urban Design, Department of Geography & Human Environment. They developed a survey for Tel Aviv citizens examining demographics such as language, age, education, technology usage in gen-

eral and privacy perceptions regarding the internet. Donio's statistical model analyzed this survey.

Donio was awarded the Ethel Friedman Research Prize from the Tel Aviv municipality for her work, and she will present further findings to municipal researchers. Says Donio: "Tel Aviv wants to drive up digital usage. We set out to understand how to close technological gaps in the smart city. Coming from the outside, we can open their eyes to what they can do to reach that goal."

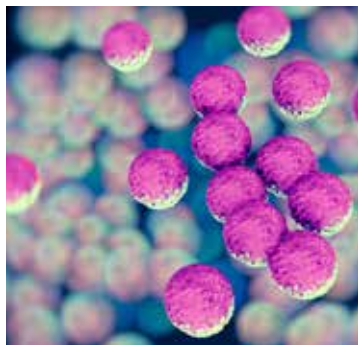
Each year, in the USA alone, some two million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and 23,000 people die as a direct result of these infections. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) forecast that by 2050 drug-resistant bacteria will be the leading cause of death in the world.

Turning Bacterial Warfare on Its Head

Now, Dr. Dor Salomon of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine is pioneering a new approach to this scourge by exploiting the natural tendency of bacteria to battle each other. Salomon explains that many strains of disease-causing bacteria secrete toxins that attack other bacteria rather than human cells. "They're in a constant war to carve out a new territorial niche for themselves," he says.

Salomon and his team are battling bacteria with their own weapons – a

toxic secretion system and the arsenal of anti-bacterial poisons it produces. Using genetic engineering and synthetic biology, the team is transferring the secretion system to "friendly" bacteria so they can fight harmful bacteria for us. These engineered bacteria will be safe for human consumption.



"Our vision is to engineer tailor-made, anti-bacterial probiotics that turn intra-bacterial warfare on its head," says Salomon.

With funding from the European Research Council (ERC), Salomon says the team is "currently learning more on how to control the activity of the system in the engineered bacteria, and searching for new anti-bacterial toxins."

King David is admired by Jews as one of the Bible's most fascinating heroes: the boy who slew Goliath, the leader who united the kingdoms of Judah and Israel, the warrior who wrote poetry. In addition, Christians believe that the messiah is rooted in the Davidic dynasty, and Muslims venerate him as a divinely chosen king and prophet.

Now, through a deeper analysis of how this biblical character was received and understood in different periods by diverse audiences, TAU's Prof. Meira Polliack seeks greater understanding of David's evolution in Judaism, Christianity and Islam and, specifically, of the cross-cultural communication about him. Her study focuses on biblical translations and commentaries on the David saga written in Arabic during the Middle Ages.

"All three great monotheistic religions have core values that go back to the Torah," says Polliack, a professor at the Department of Biblical Studies. "We are learning more about their shared history by comparing how each related

Using Light to Measure Air Pollution

Current air quality measuring devices in Israel cannot distinguish between human-made pollutants such as industrial toxins, and natural ones such as sand particles from the desert.

Yet identifying the chemical makeup of pollutants is essential for improving health and environmental policies. Now, TAU air quality expert Dr. Alexandra Chudnovsky will install and





King David and the Three Abrahamic Religions

to King David and discussed him.”

In Baghdad as well as Cordoba, Spain, the Muslim leaders gave protection to meetings called “majalis.” These were intellectual encounters between Jewish, Muslim and Christian sages in which various scriptural and religious subjects were debated. Inter-religious debate did not necessarily solve tensions, yet knowing about the other’s views, and respecting them, allowed for a more relaxed coexistence, on the whole.

Polliack believes that a positive, use-

ful history is emerging of the three main Abrahamic religions that must not go unheeded. “If we can grasp,” she says, “at some of these non-violent channels of inter-religious activity from our past, perhaps we can better fathom how to reinitiate certain forms of dialogue and mutual understanding in the present.”

Prof. Polliack and her research associates, Dr. Orly Mizrahi and Dr. Arye Zoref, are supported by a grant from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).

run a monitoring station – the first in Israel – that can pinpoint both the type and the source of pollutants in the atmosphere using laser light pulses called LiDAR.

Custom-built according to Chudnovsky’s specifications, the LiDAR machine will vertically map pollution according to its chemical components. It will scan the atmosphere from heights of 300m–10km skyward, extending for a radius of 100–350km across Israel.

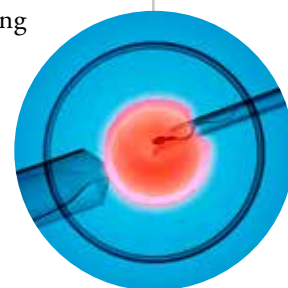
“We had to suit the machine to Israel’s unique geographic and cli-

matic conditions,” says Chudnovsky, a new faculty member at the School of Geosciences, Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences. “Israel sits at ‘air current central’ – a crossroads of air streams transporting pollutants from the Sahara in Africa as well as from coastal cities in Europe. Local sources of humanmade pollution also contribute to the mix. We have EU partners who are eager to integrate our data into their Eastern Mediterranean air quality research. TAU will become their official LiDAR site.”

Upping the Chances in IVF Treatment

Ever since its introduction in 1981, IVF (in vitro fertilization) has helped hundreds of thousands of couples in their quest to conceive. Yet, less than one-third of all IVF cases actually result in a healthy pregnancy. Failure is caused by several factors, most notably the quality of the sperm and/or egg that is selected for use in the treatment.

TAU bioengineer Prof. Natan Shaked has developed a technology for enhancing the IVF sperm selection process. Until now, selecting likely-looking sperm has been done manually based on the judgement of the attending clinician. Prof. Shaked’s technique involves a state-of-the-art optical imaging system that provides clinicians with information of a much higher level of accuracy and resolution – and thus removes much of the guesswork from the process. The technology is available in a small, simple and inexpensive device that can be attached to a standard clinical microscope.



Ramot, TAU’s technology transfer arm, is currently commercializing the pioneering device, and the Momentum Fund is supporting its development. Meanwhile, Prof. Shaked is planning another complementary IVF project – this time based on enhancing the egg and embryo selection process following fertilization.



What if...

One-Plus-One Was Greater Than Two?

Tel Aviv University spearheaded interdisciplinary studies before *interdisciplinary* became a buzzword. But how does it really work? How do researchers from different fields find common language, let alone common scientific ground?

TAU Review presents four duos who are crossing boundaries to create new research directions – and all the while, immensely enjoying the ride.



By Lisa Kremer

It was 1998 at the archaeological excavation of Megiddo overlooking the green Jezreel Valley. Israel Finkelstein, Jacob M. Alkow Professor of the Archaeology of Israel in the Bronze and Iron Ages of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology, noticed a dig participant who did not quite fit the profile of a typical university undergraduate. “I sniffed around and learned that this particular student was actually a TAU professor flying under the radar. He turned out to be a very important ‘find,’” smiles Finkelstein. That student, incumbent of the Wolfson Chair in Experimental Physics Eli Piasezky, Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences, was pursuing a de-

gree in archaeology. Prof. Finkelstein pulled him aside to talk, and so began a research partnership that is still active two decades later.

When were early Biblical texts written?

The archaeological issue of the day was mapping the chronology of the Iron Age in ancient Israel. Finkelstein challenged Piasezky to improve the dating of remains from biblical times by using the radiocarbon method. The findings, published in professional and lay publications worldwide, rendered a new timeline of ancient Israel with lasting ramifications for biblical studies.



Israel Finkelstein & Eli Piasetzky
Working together since 1998

A Match Made in Megiddo

Today, Piasetzky and Finkelstein continue their quest to reconstruct ancient history. As reported by *The New York Times*, they are conducting analyses to help better decipher ink inscriptions on potsherds, known as *ostraca*, which were unearthed at an ancient fortress in the deep desert of Arad in southern Israel.

“The citadel of Arad stands like a time capsule: active about 2,600 years ago, it was a relatively short-lived, god-forsaken outpost, a five-day journey from Jerusalem, populated by maybe 30 soldiers,” describes Finkelstein. “Who inscribed the potsherds found there? Who read them? The ostraca teach us about government *and* about literacy

in ancient Judah. If we determine when writing became a tool used by a wide swathe of society, we can shed light on when early Biblical texts were written.”

Algorithms for reading ancient inscriptions

Finkelstein and Piasetzky have put together a team of archaeologists, historians, physicists, mathematicians, and computer scientists to analyze handwriting and determine just how many hands penned the Arad ostraca. To do so, they employ physics techniques of multispectral imaging to reveal inscriptions and improve readability. Next, they compare handwriting by using algorithms specially developed by the team.

New technologies based on physics and mathematics reveal the narrative of ancient Israel

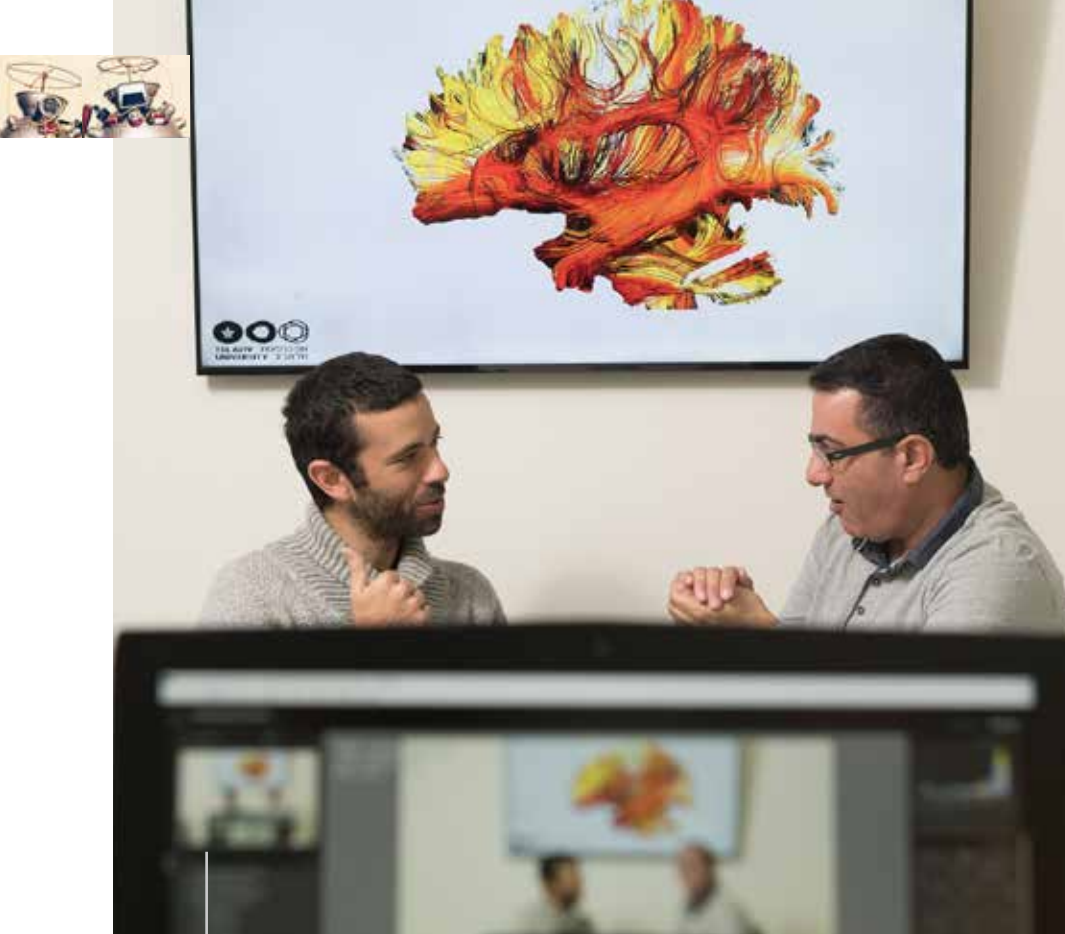
“With handwriting we face a problem of subjectivity. Scholars – all of us – come with preconceptions. We can convince ourselves that we see this or that particular letter. The computer does not have preconceptions. It measures length of strokes and angles, making numerical comparisons,” says Finkelstein.

Piasetzky continues, “One may ask why a student of mathematics would be interested in developing tools for handwriting analysis of ancient inscriptions. But this type of analysis is also acutely needed today by, say, lawyers, banks and the police. Furthermore, we’re finding solutions for the challenges of deciphering ink inscriptions found on uneven clay surfaces with faded markings and missing pieces. If our algorithms can analyze decayed inscriptions, think what they can do with modern-day handwriting on flat clean paper surfaces.”

Finkelstein adds: “Our next step is to integrate multispectral imaging at digs. This could dramatically improve excavation methodologies by determining on site if a potsherd is treasure or junk. One inscription can change the way we understand history.”



Prof. Eli Piasetzky (left) and Prof. Israel Finkelstein



Prof. Yossi Yovel (left)
and Prof. Yaniv Assaf

Yaniv Assaf & Yossi Yovel

Working together since 2005

After Hours on the MRI

MRIs map the neural pathways of the brain – with implications for designing computer networks, road systems and artificial intelligence

It's a chicken versus egg scenario: Does behavior build a neural network or does the design of a brain network dictate behavior? It turns out that they both influence each other.

“Evolutionary science holds that particular behavior drives the brain to develop and evolve in a particular way. Later, brain networks may drive behavior,” explains Prof. Yossi Yovel

of the School of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. Yovel specializes in bat echolocation – the location of objects by reflected sound – at his Bat Lab of Neuro-Ecology. A number of years ago he approached his former MSc advisor, Prof. Yaniv Assaf of the Department of Neurobiology and Alfredo Federico Strauss Center for Computational Neuro-Imaging,

with a surprising request. Yovel sought to draw on Assaf's expertise in MRI imaging techniques to scan the brains of wild bats. Could the images show how bats' use of sound rather than vision to navigate the world influences the development of their neural networks?

Imaging wildness

“I focus on human brain imaging, so I was amused when Yossi suggested scanning a bat brain. We were attempting something that had never been done before: MRI brain scans of mammals who lived *in the wild*,” says Assaf.

“Now, five years later, we have scanned over 100 species – all expired of natural causes – including many spe-

Following a tip from a Harvard professor familiar with their research, the American Museum of Natural History of New York called upon Assaf and Yovel to provide MRI scans for the special 2017 exhibition *Senses*. The Museum used the scans as the basis for 3D renderings of a human and a dolphin brain to illustrate that “what we perceive is not simply a window into the world around us but a product of our brains.” The exhibition renderings indeed show that, as in bat brains, the auditory pathway in the dolphin brain is much more developed than in the human brain.

cies of bats, of course,” Assaf continues with a nod to Yovel. “We use the MRI machine after hours so as not to interfere with ongoing research, and we have found that, yes, bat brain networks have highly developed aural – rather than visual – networks.”

In Israel, animals found dead in the wild are checked for disease by the national veterinary examiner. He calls the TAU researchers as soon as he is notified of a specimen because scanning is time sensitive, the professors explain.

The brain as a model network

What began as a scientific hobby has become a scientific first. The scans, which are specially calibrated to show the design and function of brain microstructure, pathways and networks, reveal principles governing the mammalian brain.

“Like the internet and other computer networks, or road and transportation systems, the brain is a network. The brain’s two hemispheres are connected with fibers. Our scans show that mammals with a greater number of inter-hemisphere connecting fibers will have, inversely, poorer connectivity within the hemisphere itself and vice-versa,” says Assaf. “This information can influence how networks are constructed.”

The true story of the man who inspired the film *Rain Man* illustrates this phenomenon: The hemispheres of his brain were completely unconnected. The local network in each hemisphere was so strong that he could perform complex computations within seconds. But the lack of connection between hemispheres affected his function and behavior. We need a mix of both for a functional, strong network.

“While evolutionary scientists are certainly interested in our scans, it is mathematicians and computer scientists working on smart, efficient computer networks and artificial intelligence who are the most excited,” says Assaf.

Yovel continues, “When people

hear about our project at conferences or by word of mouth, they immediately want to see our findings. But we are not yet ready. We aim to scan 10% of all mammals, which means about 500 species including those transported from abroad, which will be very costly. We

need graduate students to help build the collection more quickly. We aim to create the only collection of its kind worldwide – a digital collection of scans at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History that can be accessed by scientists around the world.”

Lihi Adler-Abramovich & Rachel Sarig

Working together since 2016

Futuristic Dentistry Meets Anthropology

Nanomaterials developed at the Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine both answer today’s clinical needs and reveal an evolutionary story

Not every dental school has a resident nanoscientist developing new materials for dentistry. Yet using the right materials is a huge component of dental care today. Dr. Lihi Adler-Abramovich of TAU’s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

joined the Goldschleger School as a nanomaterials expert in 2016.

She presented her work at a meeting attended by Dr. Rachel Sarig, an orthodontist and anthropologist who obtained her dentistry and graduate orthodontics degrees at the Goldschleger

Dr. Rachel Sarig (left) and Dr. Lihi Adler-Abramovich





School and a PhD in Anatomy & Anthropology at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine. “When I saw what Lihi was working on I was transfixed,” recounts Sarig. “I have been at TAU my entire academic life. I immediately knew that she could help solve the problems I run up against as a clinician.”

Adler-Abramovich develops new materials to improve fillings and crowns; Sarig tests them for durability and antibacterial value. Adler-Abramovich

“

“Our graduate students work with both of us and learn how to collaborate and how a combination of types of expertise can create something new.”

expands, “I enjoy finding solutions to problems, and Rachel is right here so I can design materials with her clinical needs in mind, and tweak and refine them according to her feedback. In my Laboratory of Bioinspired Materials and Nanotechnology, I also create nanomaterials for medicine, such as hydrogels to regenerate bone for periodontology and orthopedics applications. To further understand osteoporosis I use a zero-gravity simulator to examine how microgravity on space missions affects bone mineral density on the cellular level.”

Evolutionary medicine

Sarig also mines Adler-Abramovich’s nano expertise to investigate the evolutionary processes that have shaped our skull and jawbone. The nano-techniques are used to analyze the microstructure, micro-texture, rigidity, morphology, and fluoride content of jaws and teeth from prehistoric to modern times. Findings contribute to understanding

the origins of teeth and jaw problems and the relation of diet to oral health.

“Even though we have better hygiene and access to medication, dentists today see increased cavities and crowding,” says Sarig, who is Curator of the Physical Anthropology collections at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and is affiliated with the Dan David Center for Human Evolution and Biohistory Research and the Shmunis Family Anthropology Institute. “This

is probably due to the transition of early humans from hunter-gatherer to farmer, and the dietary changes that came with it. Evolutionary medicine helps us recognize such trends, understand today’s pathologies, and

develop successful treatment strategies for crowding, rotation, overbite, missing teeth, cavities, and gum disease.”

Working side-by-side

Though working together for just two years, Adler-Abramovich and Sarig have joint research plans to keep them busy for years to come. “We support each other, we work late hours, our labs are side-by-side, we share knowledge and equipment, we apply for joint research grants,” says Sarig. “Our graduate students work with both of us and learn how to collaborate and how a combination of types of expertise can create something new.”

“We have become friends not only in work,” Adler-Abramovich continues. “We know we will continue working together and have great ideas. Because the School supports practical dental studies as well as scientific research, our collaboration is a natural extension of the school environment.”



Prof. Yoram Dagan (left) and Prof. Gil Markovich



Gil Markovich & Yoram Dagan

Working together since 2014

Clean Room Conversations

At the shared laboratories of the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, casual conversation between scientists of different disciplines can lead to scientific breakthroughs

of Chemistry. Prof. Yoram Dagan, Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, nods in agreement. Markovich and Dagan were the students' respective PhD advisors and quickly saw the benefit of collaborating.

They seek to find a solution for preventing defects on the surface of semiconductors – small components that control the electrical current in devices such as cellphones and computers. These defects harm performance.

Long-term project

The scientists are using a chemical rather than physical process to create an electrical insulating thin film the thickness of a single atom. Their invention could improve microelectronics in all the devices we carry in our pockets and have in our homes by making them faster, more efficient and more compact.

"This is a long-term project – an idea that may be implementable twenty years down the line. Yet exploring this basic physics problem using nano-chemistry led us to an application that can be realized today," says Dagan. Markovich and Dagan have teamed up with industry experts for guidance in applying their technology to improve resolution in infrared cameras used for defense and security installations. The Israel Innovation Authority (formerly the Office of the Chief Scientist) has

invested in the project with a grant reserved solely for projects that have a good chance to be commercialized in Israel.

"It all begins, though, with basic science. Basic science is the foundation of knowledge. When we discover new possibilities and new materials, applications can grow," stresses Dagan.

Markovich and Dagan share a passion for unlocking the secrets of the universe: "We are both interested in origins," says Dagan. "Gil researches the interaction of minerals with amino acids and DNA – the original building blocks of life. I am interested in the fundamental properties of matter and

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“We are both interested in origins.”

materials. I would not think up chemical approaches to physical problems by myself. Our collaboration is opening up new possibilities,” says Dagan.

"This has been a fun ride," adds Markovich. "First, Yoram is a nice person. And I never worked on these kinds of problems before. We have ideas for cooperation on chemical ways to create new materials for quantum computing. The future is wide open."

A chemist and a physicist walk into a clean room. No, this is not the one about how many people it takes to change a light bulb. Nor is it the one about two Israelis and three opinions. This is a true story about how two doctoral students from different fields got talking and realized that they may be able to use chemistry to solve a nagging problem in physics.

"These students were the best kind – curious and open to new ideas and different ways of approaching a problem," says Prof. Gil Markovich of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler School

Len Blavatnik (right)
with TAU President
Joseph Klafter



The Len Effect

The inspiring effect of philanthropist Leonard (“Len”) Blavatnik can be felt across campus

Now in its fourth year, the Blavatnik Initiative has sparked discovery and innovation in drug development, computer science, cyber security and student films. *TAU Review* had a chance to speak to Len about his global philanthropy when he arrived to launch the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in Israel – a national award that duplicates the prestigious one he established in 2007 in the USA.

–Congratulations! What message do you want to express to the Israeli R&D community through this high-profile award?

I see my mission, so to speak, as providing the opportunity for the best and the brightest, while they are still young, to achieve their full potential. In Israel you have so many brilliant minds but, because of the country’s small size and distance from world science centers, it’s obviously harder for them to show what they’re capable of. Hopefully my prize will help them excel and contribute to Israel’s future.

–If science in different countries has a national character, how would you describe “Israeli science?”

In general Israelis have a certain entrepreneurial spirit, which adds an

element of adventure and accomplishment. This national character is reflected in the science.

–The Blavatnik Initiative at TAU was your first multimillion dollar pledge to Israeli academia. What was it about Tel Aviv University that made you take the plunge?

I’d been involved for a while with a fellowship program and I really liked the people; they did a good job working with me and my team. I like to invest in high quality institutions and Tel Aviv University is one of them.

–What spurred you into philanthropy to begin with?

I grew up in a very different environment – the Soviet Union – and there was pretty much no such thing as philanthropy at that time. Both my parents worked in academia and I was always reminded of the value of education. When I came to America the good education I had definitely helped me integrate and advance in society.

So when I had the opportunity, I thought the one place where I could make an impact and affect the lives of other people was to support educational and research activity. I started by supporting various scholarships, and I still do, because to help a young person with

their education may not require much money, relatively, but might make a huge difference in their lives.

That’s also why my science awards are for young scientists. Because when you’re already a Nobel Prize winner, not much can improve your situation, but with a young person it makes a difference.

–How do you feel when you see a big scientific breakthrough that you’ve helped make happen?

It’s very gratifying – obviously that’s the idea behind all the grants and support. Recent basic research we funded in the US has led to a therapy for putting cancer into remission, and early trials are showing great results. There are relatively few things that impress me. This impresses me.

Sir Leonard Blavatnik, a TAU Honorary Doctor and Governor, is a Soviet-born British-American businessman and philanthropist. The Blavatnik Family Foundation has made major gifts to Tel Aviv University, Oxford, Harvard, Yale, Carnegie Hall, and the Tate Modern, among other educational and cultural institutions.



Prof. Orna Elroy-Stein is hopeful. The cell biologist at TAU's George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences has recently made important strides in her years-long efforts to find a cure for Vanishing White Matter (VWM), a rare and fatal brain disease that appears in early childhood.

This milestone is the fruit of a unique marriage between Elroy-Stein and the families of children who suffer from VWM around the world. The families have accelerated her research through intensive grassroots fundraising and

in everyone following physiological stress, but in healthy people it regenerates itself. People with VWM have a genetic mutation that causes myelin to form less accurately and regenerate more slowly. Symptoms usually appear in the toddler years, when normal experiences such as the flu or head injuries cause myelin recession. As a result of additional stress, the nervous system eventually collapses, leading to death.

Fateful encounter

Fifteen years ago, the neurologist

eight, yet the O'Briens continue to fund Elroy-Stein's research through a foundation they set up in Marisol's memory. After the O'Briens, parents from around the world turned to Elroy-Stein seeking information about the disease and raising funds for her research.

Elroy-Stein's team recently made several important discoveries. They developed an additional lab model on which they can test potential drugs. They also identified a drug-like molecule which is likely to have therapeutic benefits for sufferers of VWM.

Crowdfunding for life

Activist parents drive Tel Aviv University scientist to find cure for devastating disease

activism. "This is a very exciting phase," says Elroy-Stein. "It proves that all of the efforts by the families have helped us."

Yet, the glimmer of optimism comes with a redoubled sense of urgency. Most children with VWM don't survive their teens, and every advance in Elroy-Stein's research has the potential to save another member of the global VWM community.

Vanishing White Matter is a genetic neurodegenerative disease, with less than 1,000 cases reported around the world. "White matter" is myelin, fatty tissue that insulates and protects nerve fibers. Myelin recedes

who discovered VWM introduced Elroy-Stein to Thomas and Patricia O'Brien, a couple from the

Boston area whose daughter Marisol had been diagnosed with the disease. That meeting was a fateful one; soon after, Elroy-Stein decided to dedicate her career to understanding and treating VWM. She created a laboratory model of VWM using

Marisol's mutation. To this day, she keeps a picture of Marisol, along with other VWM kids, in her office.

Marisol died in 2008 at the age of



Prof. Orna Elroy-Stein

In light of these developments, Elroy-Stein and her team are working feverishly to further their understanding of the disease. "I don't dare stop and let these people down," she says.

The research has also been supported through generous donations by the Saxby family of Australia, Richard and Harriet Cooper of the US and donors in the UK, Spain and other countries. Donna Skwirut of Chicago has given generously of her time and efforts to help organize fundraising initiatives around the world.



Personal letters and photos from the families

By Melanie Takefman

Learning to Feed the World

What do a legal student from Italy, a geneticist from Vietnam and a plant scientist from India have in common? They all study at TAU's Manna Center Program for Food Safety and Security

Chiaretta Giordano is an Italian doctoral student at TAU who studies the legal implications of food security. She thinks that human rights start in the kitchen. This interest in food brought her to the Manna Center Program's Food Safety and Security Summer Institute in 2016 while she was completing a master's degree in Italy.

at the Summer Institute that she decided to pursue a PhD in food security law at the Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies at the TAU Buchmann Faculty of Law. She aims to prove that only by enabling indigenous groups to follow and practice their native food cultures can governments guarantee their full human rights.

suffer from malnutrition, while another 2 billion are undernourished or suffer from an excess of harmful caloric intake due to lack of access to healthy food.

Against this backdrop, TAU created the Manna Program for Food Safety and Security, the first of its kind in Israel, to address food security "from field to fork." Leveraging TAU's interdisciplinary research culture, the Program promotes innovative, potentially high-impact research by forging ties between professionals and academics from different disciplines. In doing so, it prepares the next generation of scientists and policymakers to guide global food security issues.

Hands-on agricultural training

The Center's international programs are taking this holistic and pluralistic agenda even further. Building on the success of its 4-week Summer Institute, the Manna Center and TAU International launched the International MSc in Plant Science with Emphasis on Food Security in 2014. The graduate course is run jointly with the Arava International Center for Agriculture Training. Students have the opportunity

RESEARCH BEARING FRUIT

In the framework of her doctoral studies as a Manna Center fellow, Cameroonian student Japhette Esther Kembou Tsofack joined forces with TAU Prof. Eran Bachrach who studies tilapia fish. Together, they discovered a virus that was causing disease in tilapia around the world. Tsofack is now developing diagnostics and vaccines to contain the illness.



"Although Israel is a little country, it has connections all over the world. Professors from different countries come to give lectures or participate in conferences," she said.

Giordano connected so much with TAU's global and comprehensive approach to food security during her time

Giordano's research focus is one example of the broad spectrum of topics encompassed by food security, a pressing issue that could potentially affect everyone. Around the world, demand for food is on the rise, while the quantity of arable land and agricultural resources is declining. Close to 1 billion people





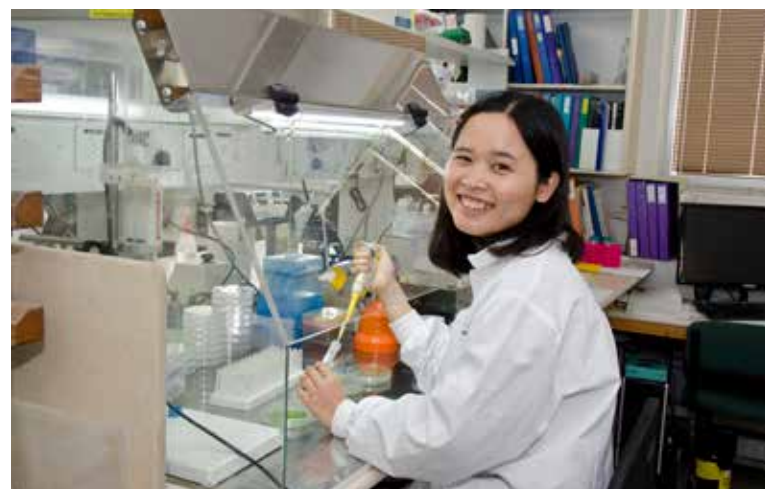
to study, live and gain work experience in the Arava desert, Israel's largest vegetable exporting region.

The current cohort of MSc students hails from 10 different countries, including Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Program even attracted a scholar from Indonesia, a country without diplomatic ties to Israel, testament to TAU's unique expertise and global reputation.

During the summer, the MSc students join their peers in the Summer Institute for academic study and field

trips to sites including an urban farming complex and an agricultural research station in the Negev.

Prof. Nir Ohad, Head of the MSc Program, says they divide the students into multinational groups. Each student then presents problems they encounter in their country. "This interaction enriches everyone's knowledge. There is nothing like becoming acquainted with these issues from a first-hand source," he said. "Our students also benefit from exposure to Israel's technological might from the source," he added.



Added value

Often, the benefits of food security studies at TAU go beyond academics.

Thúy Uyên Hồng Yü, a graduate student at TAU's newly formed School of Plant Sciences and Food Security, came to TAU on the recommendation of her faculty dean in Vietnam. At the time, she knew nothing about Israel, except that it was a leader in agricultural technology.

Uyên Hồng is now completing her master's thesis with Prof. Ohad on the intersection of technology and plant development. The international MSc program, she said, helped her learn about herself and how to present her ideas. "In Vietnam, you need to think a lot before you allow yourself to ask a question. Here, you can ask every time."

Uyên Hồng said the combination of academics and practical experience allows students to devise a "future vision" for the challenges of food security: to look beyond their narrow fields of research and find greater, more strategic solutions. This is the type of thinking that will contribute to the production of better, safer food and to increased global health, she said.

Yogendra Kumar Meena, a horticulturalist from India, attended the Summer Institute in 2016 on a scholarship from Israel's Council of Higher Education. It was a "life-changing experience," he said. Upon arrival, he immediately fell in love with Israel – with its "warm, friendly and passionate people" and the great work ethic and achievements compared to its size. The knowledge that he acquired at TAU will benefit India, an agricultural powerhouse that has yet to adequately implement new technologies and reforms, he explained.

"The international programs' success is measured by the fact that our graduates are hired in preferred jobs when they go home," said Prof. Ohad. "No less important, they become goodwill ambassadors for Israel."



The 3rd cohort included students from Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Vietnam



Graduate Student Thúy Uyên Hồng Yü



TAU students
(facing front)
and inmates
at Rimoni
Prison

By Idit Nirel

Taking No Prisoners

A recently-launched initiative maximizes Tel Aviv University's potential to help community members in need

When TAU master's student Hiyam Diab signed up for a community theater course, she never imagined she'd end up behind the bars of a maximum security prison. Hiyam was among 13 TAU students leading a theater group at Rimoni prison, one of 140 social activism projects run by TAU just in the last year. This and the other projects are all part of TAU Impact, the University's trailblazing program designed to embed civic involvement into its teaching curriculum.

TAU Impact allows the University to harness its resources and know-how toward generating tangible social benefits. The first of its kind in Israel and possibly the world, TAU Impact teaches social activism through accredited courses that integrate cutting-edge knowledge with community engagement projects. This hands-on work in

the community is carried out in collaboration with local communities, NGOs and government agencies.

Making a difference in all realms of society

The play written and performed by Hiyam, her co-students and the prisoners was performed before family members, prison officials and guards, lawyers, judges and even a Knesset Member. The performances gave voice to the prisoners' hopes to one day become contributing members of society, and provided audiences with a thought-provoking encounter.

For Hiyam, taking the course was a particularly powerful experience: "As a social activist in the field of violence against women I'd had contact with victims; this project provided me with an opportunity to meet the victimizers," she says. "I experienced intense inner conflicts when I found myself empathizing with them, but this is exactly the idea – breaking stereotypes and accepting others, as well as listening and working together in a creative process that can bring about a profound personal, group and social change."

Along with the use of community theater as a method of enriching prison inmates' rehabilitation, other projects of TAU Impact include mentoring youth-at-risk, aiding the elderly

to realize their rights, advancing equality in education for minorities and initiating environmental projects, among other initiatives. Some 10,000 Israeli children, youth, adults and senior citizens benefit from TAU community projects every year; this number is expected to reach over 40,000 annually in the coming years.

Encouraging involvement

In the belief that these programs have an educational as well as a community impact, TAU is making TAU Impact mandatory for all undergraduate students. "Our initiative instills a culture of social engagement across campus and a sense of civic responsibility among our students. It encourages them to use their skills for the benefit of society, not only now but also after they graduate, and to become catalysts of positive social change in Israel," says TAU Dean of Students Prof. Most, Ruth and Allen Ziegler Student Services Division.

Whereas the library of the past was a quiet sanctuary where even the slightest whisper could raise stern rebukes, today's academic libraries are evolving into vibrant study hubs with areas for group discussion. To meet the needs of today's students, TAU has undertaken a major renovation of the Sourasky Library aimed at upgrading its underused mezzanine level. As a result, the 550 sq. meter floor, which features 13 group study rooms and other facilities, is now in use from morning to night daily.

The facilities are available for use by students, faculty, administrative staff and the general public – not only for study purposes but also for hosting lectures and events. The renovations were funded through the estate of the late TAU benefactor Claire Maratier.

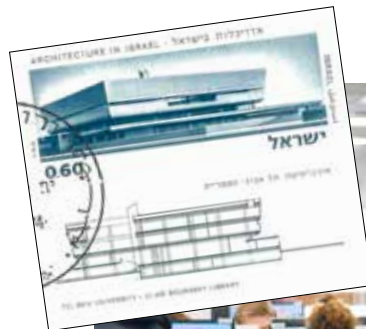
Sourasky Library Director Dr. Naama Scheftelowitz: "There are still quiet areas in the library for individual study, but we're adjusting to the way students prefer to learn today, providing them with attractive spaces to hold discussions and practice skills they learned in class." Scheftelowitz notes that acoustic insulation in the study rooms ensures that students don't have to lower their voices as they interact. All group study rooms can be reserved online, along with laptops, electronic dictionaries, flash drives and headsets.

"We're moving with the times and ensuring that the library is no longer passé," says Scheftelowitz. She notes that the library is continuously introducing new services – a dedicated app, a WhatsApp service and a chat service. "Students can now sit on the train on their way to campus and request that a section of a book be scanned and sent to them," says Scheftelowitz.

The Elias Sourasky Central Library is TAU's flagship library, serving approximately 3,000 students and faculty daily. Founded in 1968, it was built in the brutalist architectural style and featured on a special stamp issued in

The Ever-Changing University Library

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, TAU's iconic Elias Sourasky Central Library is moving toward interactive group learning and expanding digital services



1974. It primarily serves the humanities and arts.

To keep up with new research directions, the library offers seminars and training in digital humanities, arts and other areas. "We see ourselves as a laboratory for information technology," says Scheftelowitz. And how does she envision the library of the future? "We will continue to offer new services as the technologies develop," she says. She also envisions extending the library outwards as part of a planned project that will include renovation of the Sarita

and Noel Wertheim Hall and the creation of an outside ecological pool and a "hanging out space" with tables, chairs and free wifi.

Elias Sourasky of Mexico was the founding donor of the Elias Sourasky Central Library. The family has carried on the tradition of generosity and includes three generations of TAU Honorary Doctors – the late Elias Sourasky (1971), his son-in-law the late Jaime Constantiner (1980) and grandson, TAU Governor Dr. Arturo Constantiner (2004).

By Louise Shalev



From Application to Graduation: Mainstreaming Haredi Students into Regular Campus Studies

Pioneering TAU initiative is helping Ultra-Orthodox Jewish students build professional careers previously unattainable to most

By David Jozsef

As an Ultra-Orthodox girl educated in a Jerusalem seminary, Ester Tayar was taught at an early age that challenging the teacher was not only frowned upon, it was indicative of a ‘problem child.’ “Since third grade I learned that I had to suppress my desire to understand, to know why,” explains Ester. Now, the 31-year-old wife and mother of two small children is a second-year law student at TAU’s Buchmann Faculty of Law. For the first time in her life, not only is asking questions encouraged, it is expected. “Our professors told us in

our first semester to be critical thinkers, that everything you are told must be questioned. Never accept anything at face value. I was amazed,” she says.

Ester is one of 50 fulltime Haredi students currently studying at TAU under a new framework called Trailblazers: The Program for Integrating the Ultra-Orthodox into Tel Aviv University. The program is unique in its threefold approach to mainstreaming Haredim into regular study programs: first, men and women learn together in non-segregated classrooms alongside secular students.

Second, acceptance criteria are adapted to meet individual educational backgrounds. Third, dedicated academic and other support services are centralized into a “one-stop-shop” of holistic assistance that accompanies students from the moment they apply to the moment of graduation.

Overcoming hurdles

Ultra-Orthodox Israelis educated in yeshivas and seminaries face greater challenges than their secular counterparts when applying to university. They



life, whether here on campus or anywhere else. I try my best to stay focused on my work.”

Financial pressures are another obstacle which makes higher education a dream for many Haredim wishing to pursue careers in fields such as engineering, medicine or law. The Council for Higher Education in Israel has been supportive of Trailblazers, providing partial funding. Various organizations in Israel and abroad donate additional funds for student aid.

A national imperative

The Israeli government has made integrating Ultra-Orthodox Israelis into the workforce a national priority. Although more Haredim are entering the workforce, the jobs tend to be lower paying, which keeps them trapped in a cycle of poverty. As the Israel Democracy Institute notes in its 2016 report, *A Master Plan for Ultra-Orthodox Employment in Israel*, “Despite the impressive success in getting the Ultra-Orthodox to enter the labor market and increasing employment rates among Ultra-Orthodox men and women in recent years, current policies have not been able to extricate the sector from its deep poverty. The salaries of Ultra-Orthodox workers remain low and do not provide real economic and social security.”

The objective is to get them into the higher-paying jobs, which, as the report concludes, “...would benefit the Ultra-Orthodox community, Israel’s economy, and Israeli society as a whole.”

The TAU leadership views Trailblazers as answering a societal need while also advancing TAU’s policy of being an all-inclusive academic institution. TAU Dean of Students Prof. Tova Most, who heads the program, says: “We want the best students studying here; Jews, Arabs, secular, religious and international students are all welcome.”

The obstacles faced by Ultra-Orthodox students are unique and daunting, but, as Prof. Most explains, the University has been proactive in providing all the resources necessary for them to succeed. The University will begin a new marketing campaign targeting the Haredi community with the goal of attracting even more candidates to the Program.

To help cope with the stresses of adapting to university life, Program Coordinator Galia Givoly is the one-stop, centralized resource for these students. Rather than spending precious study time trying to find help, they all turn to Galia, the driving force behind Trailblazers. With a mother’s devotion, she sources tutors, arranges psychological or career counseling, organizes mentoring programs, holds numerous social events and helps with finding financing.

For Yechiel, between his full-time studies, a full-time job, volunteer work as a paramedic for Magen David Adom and raising his children, including a 5-year old autistic son, juggling all the demands is perhaps the greatest test. “I like the challenge,” he says. “My goal is to learn more, to have a profession. I hope to succeed.”

Trailblazers has evolved over 3 years from a pilot project with two students studying law to one with students in many fields, including law, medicine, dentistry, engineering, business, sociology and public policy. “TAU sees itself as a microcosm of the wider Israeli society, so it is important for the University to have all sectors of Israeli society represented,” says Galia. “Haredim should also have access to the best education possible.”

Ester says, “When I returned to Tel Aviv University for my second semester, I walked in with a big smile on my face. I knew I was lucky to be here and I felt good here, but I didn’t know how much it had become a part of me. I felt at home.”

have not been taught many of the core subjects needed both to successfully matriculate and to pass the university entrance exams, particularly English and mathematics. Because strictly observant boys and girls are never educated in a mixed classroom environment, families and communities are not readily disposed to the idea.

First-year law student Yechiel Vaknin, a 34-year-old father of four, acknowledges that the gender integration poses challenges at times. “It is not easy,” he says, “but it’s part of everyday



From left:
Program
Coordinator
Galia Givoly
with students
Ester Tayar
and Yechiel
Vaknin



Alumni Profile: Marius Nacht

He's investing in a healthier future

By Michal Alexander

As his father was dying of cancer, TAU alumnus and Check Point co-founder Marius Nacht resolved to invest in Israeli research that would bring a cure to others.

The agonizing illness and death of his father changed Nacht's outlook on life. Nacht, who obtained his MSc in Electrical Engineering from TAU in 1986 and went on to co-found the pioneering Israeli high-tech company Check Point Software Technologies in 1993, was suddenly drawn to a field aimed at saving lives: the life sciences.

"Check Point was the focus of my professional career for two decades," he recalls. "I was fascinated by our new technologies in IT security, I worked hard to extend the company's global impact, and I still serve as its Chairman. But sitting by my father's bedside, helplessly watching this vigorous man waste

away, something inside me changed. I felt a deep urge to do anything I could to prevent such suffering."

For Nacht, a highly experienced and successful investor and entrepreneur, doing "anything he could" meant establishing two new enterprises in healthcare and biomedicine.

"The whole field of healthcare is becoming increasingly technological," says Nacht. "Its innovations are immensely improving our prospects for living long, productive and enjoyable lives. And Israelis, with no less than 1,700 healthcare startups to date, are definitely a powerful engine, a driving force in every aspect of this revolution. Our country's researchers and inventors lead the way toward new drugs and medical devices, groundbreaking diagnostics and digital health inventions."

To support this buzzing activity,

Nacht founded the aMoon Fund, which, under the slogan "Accelerating a Cure," channels hundreds of millions of dollars into the discovery and development of promising new ideas and ventures in the life sciences.

"We focus on initiatives that combat the major killers – especially cancer and cardiovascular disease, alongside those illnesses that incur substantial healthcare expenses, such as dementia, high blood pressure and diabetes," describes Nacht. One of his main partners in this endeavor is Ramot, the technology transfer arm of Tel Aviv University, through which he sponsors selected research efforts within TAU, licensing out the resulting technologies. "Already we have two groundbreaking discoveries made in TAU laboratories that may ultimately revolutionize the treatment of cancer all over the world," he declares with unmistakable passion.

At the same time, recognizing the shortcomings of Israel's healthcare ecosystem, Nacht established 8400 – the Health Network, an NGO that works with medical centers, universities, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, and other relevant bodies to remedy public healthcare flaws. One of its main objectives, according to Nacht, is to create a much friendlier environment that will encourage investors – both private and institutional, local and international – to back biomedical research in Israel.

Ultimately, this bold and caring TAU alumnus addresses his call to action to all friends of Tel Aviv University: "Financial involvement in Israel's life sciences industry is a most worthy channel for your investments. In fact, it's a priceless opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to everything we care about: our University, the State of Israel, and indeed the future of all humankind. Right at this moment, brilliant Israeli scientists are waiting for our sponsorship – to help them on the road to eradicating disease and suffering!"



Be Part of the Next Big Idea TAU Global Campaign

STRONGER SOCIETY

Major Boost for Campaign: Dedication of Millie Phillips Student City

In a significant boost to its \$1 billion global fundraising campaign, TAU is naming its Student City complex in honor of Millie Phillips of Australia. The dedication follows a generous gift by Mrs. Phillips toward the Millie Phillips Development Fund, which will bring home exceptional young Israeli faculty members, award graduate and international student scholarships and bolster the campus's physical development. Mrs. Phillips' extraordinary gift will reinforce TAU's mission to nurture new generations of Israeli innovators, leaders and educators as a means of helping Israel remain strong and competitive in the global arena.

Millie Phillips is one of Australia's most prominent businesswomen and

philanthropists of Jewish causes. She is a TAU Honorary Doctor and ardent benefactor, having previously supported the Millie Phillips Floor at the Check Point Building, currently under construction at the heart of the campus, and the Millie Phillips Lobby at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, which is slated to open later this year.

Millie Phillips Student City is the largest and most ambitious building project in TAU's history. The 60,000 sq. m. complex offers residential units for over 1,700 students and faculty from Israel and overseas. Dominating the southern section of the campus, it is the University's most visible landmark.

The complex was built to increase affordable housing for talented and high potential Israelis from the periphery. And it has paid off, almost doubling the number of dormitory beds at TAU, including for married graduate students and young faculty members with families.

Offering shops, cafes, gardens, promenades and recreational facilities, the complex has become an important and vibrant fixture in the Greater Tel Aviv cultural cityscape.

Based on the tremendous success of Student City, plans are now underway to construct three more buildings to provide an additional 800 beds, thereby increasing the total capacity of the complex to 2,500 beds.

Millie Phillips
Student City
Complex



**Millie Phillips'
Big Idea:**

“

“To build up Israel by nurturing new generations of student innovators and leaders.”





Rendering of the Lorry I. Lokey Graduate Center

GLOBAL EDGE

Transforming Business Education in Israel

The Lorry I. Lokey Graduate Center is an expression of its founder's devotion to higher education and to Israel

Investing in the “kids of the future” is key to the philanthropy of TAU benefactor, Lorry I. Lokey of San Francisco. As one of the USA's top philanthropists, Lokey is dedicated to the cause of higher education in the USA and Israel. His vision has led to the establishment of the Lorry I. Lokey Graduate Center, a new multi-purpose building that will significantly expand the space and activities of TAU's Collier School of Management.

The state-of-the-art Center, which was designed by Gottesman-Szmelcman Architects, will combine innovative design, green technology and stunning aesthetics to both meet the School's long-term needs and help position it as an international leader in business scholarship and research.

Located at the entrance to the campus adjacent to the existing Recanati Building, the 5,000 sq. m. (54,000 sq. ft.) Center will have lecture halls, conference rooms, offices and numerous study areas for small groups or individual study.

“The Center is designed to create a true and long-lasting community by fostering business and educational interactions,” says Dean of Management Prof. Moshe Zviran. “It will serve as a catalyst for a major transformation of business education in Israel.”

Lokey, a TAU Governor, was the founder of *Business Wire*. His charitable nature is in his DNA: even during the Depression, his parents continued to give to organizations they supported. By his late 20s, Lokey was already giving away 10 percent of his income, starting with gifts to his local temple and to Stanford University, where he earned a BA in journalism.

Honored with countless awards, Lokey is annually ranked among the

top US philanthropists and is a member of the Global Philanthropy Forum.

“It is a privilege to give,” says Lokey, who has donated over 700 million dollars throughout his lifetime – virtually 98% of his net worth – with the bulk of it going to educational institutions. “Without people giving grants, we'd never make it.”



Lorry Lokey's Big Idea:



“We want the kids of the future to do better than we did.”

At the cornerstone laying for the Center in 2014, Lokey said, “What a thrill to make an investment. Those of us giving grants want the kids of the future

to do better than we did. Through Tel Aviv University, we are just getting better and better. More than anything, I want to see Israel prosper in the global business arena, and I am now inviting like-minded individuals to join me in this endeavor.”



STRONGER SOCIETY

Renewed Support for Edmond J. Safra Ethics Center

Expanded activity will focus on markets, ethics and the law

In an increasingly globalized world, what ethical codes should people follow when engaging in international business? Who holds responsibility for maintaining ethical standards in the housing and labor markets?

These are two examples of the many questions explored by scholars at TAU's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.

Recognizing the broad importance of the study of ethics for Israeli society and the world, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation recently reinforced its com-

mitment to the Center with a substantial gift over the next five years. The Center was founded at the Buchmann Faculty of Law by philanthropist and TAU Honorary Doctor Lily Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation in 2012. The recent donation aims to enhance the Center's international reach and provide additional support for existing programs.

"We are profoundly grateful to the Edmond J. Safra Foundation for their vote of confidence," said Prof. Hanoch

Dagan, Director of the Center and former dean of the Buchmann Faculty of Law. "We look forward to strengthening our partnership and to reaching new milestones together."

The Center attracts scholars from the world's top universities and includes student exchanges with the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. The TAU Center also hosts four active research groups and regularly organizes local and international conferences. Over the next five years, Center researchers will concentrate on the topic, "Markets, Ethics, and the Law," from the viewpoint of diverse fields such as business administration, sociology and political philosophy.

The Eva and Les Erdi Educational Gallery, a state-of-the-art facility for environmental education, was inaugurated by members of the Erdi Foundation, including the late Les Erdi's grandson, Gavin Dunhill, at the soon-to-be-opened TAU Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. The Gallery will introduce the vibrant world of biodiversity and conservation to 150,000 children, youth and adults annually and offer hands-on exploration of museum artefacts.

The Erdi Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Museum at the heart of the visitor experience. It embodies the Museum's public mission to deepen understanding and appreciation of the natural world, while sparking curiosity and a spirit of scientific discovery among people of all ages.

SUSTAINABLE PLANET

Hands-On Teaching Facility Inaugurated at Steinhardt Museum

At the inauguration ceremony Mr. Jeffrey Pinch, Chairman of the Eva and Les Erdi Humanitarian Charitable Foundation, said, "Les and Eva would have been really delighted with this initiative. We're thrilled that so many people will be introduced to their lasting legacy." A plaque was unveiled acknowledging the gift on the Museum's Honor Wall and the contract was signed in the



From left: Michael Naftali, JNF; Jeffrey Appel; Philip Zajac, CFO Erdi Group; Gavin Dunhill, the Erdi's grandson; Jeffrey Pinch, Erdi Group; and Ricky Jeffs, CEO Erdi Group

presence of Museum Chair Prof. Tamar Dayan and Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad.

Also attending the ceremony were Michael Naftali, representative of the JNF in Australia and members of the Erdi Foundation Philip Zajac and Jeffrey Pinch, as well as Museum Director Alon Sapan.



From left: Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad; TAU President Joseph Klafter; Rebecca Boukhris; Claude Deloro; Albert Deloro; Michel Cicurel; Marc Levy; and Sydney Boukhris

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Advancing Groundbreaking Biomedical Research in Israel

The Adelis Forever Fund is supporting four projects in the areas of cancer, epigenetics and metabolic disorders

TAU's Dr. Noam Shomron strives to transform breast cancer into a manageable and non-life threatening disease by halting metastasis. His pioneering research, together with other projects, is now receiving a significant boost through the generous support of the

Adelis Foundation.

The Adelis Fund for Advancement of Scientific and Medical Research was established at TAU in memory of its founder, André Cohen-Deloro. "My late brother's goal was to promote research and education in Israel, so that it will

serve as an example for all nations," said Albert Deloro, Foundation President, at the Fund's signing ceremony.

"As its name indicates, the Foundation 'brings good fortune' – it turns everything it touches into gold. I hope that it brings good fortune to Tel Aviv University and its scientists, as well as to Israel and all humankind," said Mr. Deloro. The important role played by French Friends President Prof. François Heilbronn in bringing the University and the Foundation together was noted at the ceremony.

In his Adelis-supported cancer research, Dr. Shomron of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine proposes a new approach. He uses big data to screen women with breast cancer for mutations associated with metastasis, in order to precisely target and suppress culprit cells. Preliminary lab results seem extremely promising.

Other scientists at TAU receiving Adelis support are: Prof. Ehud Gazit, Dr. Oded Rechavi and Dr. Johann Elbaz.



TAU
Honorary
Doctor
Miles Nadal



STRONGER SOCIETY

New Miles Nadal Fund Will Reward Israel's Bravest

Over the last years of rocket attacks, terror attacks and military operations, the burden of defending the State of Israel has fallen on the shoulders of the young men and women serving in combat units – particularly elite ones such as Duvdevan. The physical and psychological toll on these brave young people is immense.

Now, the new Miles S. Nadal and Family Duvdevan Scholarship Fund will ensure that reserve combat soldiers have every chance to fulfil their academic potential and complete uni-

versity degrees. The project was established by TAU Governor, benefactor and Honorary Doctor, Miles S. Nadal of Toronto and family, a testament to their deep commitment to the young people who have risked their lives for the Jewish state.

The Fund will award 10 partial scholarships per year to TAU undergraduate and graduate students who performed their military service in the Duvdevan unit. Nadal Scholars will be offered scholarships for tuition and books, academic assistance such as tutoring,

videotaped lectures and photocopying vouchers, psychological therapy, support groups and career counseling when necessary.

The Fund represents another in a long line of projects at TAU supported by Nadal, an entrepreneur and philanthropist. These include the Miles S. Nadal Institute for Technological Entrepreneurship and the Miles S. Nadal Home for Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which houses the TAU Ventures startup incubator.



The year was 1979 during the Islamic Revolution in Iran. As thousands of Jews fled, many sought help from their trusted friend Yosef Shahery who had presciently moved to the United States four years earlier. “Working together with various Jewish organizations, Yosef assisted well over a thousand newly-arrived Iranian teenagers who were fearful of consequences and uncertainties in Iran. Many had no support, family nor adequate funds to survive,” says Yosef’s eldest son Shahrokh (Shaw). “He also assisted many families and individuals who were afraid of persecution in Iran and sought refuge in the States.”

Now, Yosef Shahery is continuing the family passion for giving. A generous gift from the Yosef and Farang Shahery Foundation, New York, is enabling the establishment of a perpetual fellowship fund for supporting graduate students at TAU. To acknowledge this generosity, the University is naming the spacious and elegant computer science lobby at the Check Point Building in honor of Yosef and Farang Shahery.

The Shahery family has long been attached to Israel. The siblings, Shaw, Vida, Shahrz and Farzad (Frank), say, “Our father has always been a big believer in higher education and the family looked at a number of universities in Israel before choosing TAU. With one of the best computer science and technological reputations in Israel – and as the country’s largest – we decided the best place to make this pledge would be at Tel Aviv University.”

Honoring a rich, Farsi history

Yosef Shahery was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1921, and met his wife Farang

in 1948. Yosef took over and expanded his father’s business to become one of the largest importers of raw materials for the textile industry. Yet, at the height of his success, after noticing changes



Yosef and Farang Shahery



Back row, from left: Frank, Vida, Shahrz and Shaw Shahery; Front row: Farang and Yosef Shahery



Rendering of the Yosef and Farang Shahery Lobby in the Check Point Building

GLOBAL EDGE

A Family Passion for Giving

in Iran’s political climate, Yosef elected to move to the United States in 1975 and brought his family over the following year.

When the Iranian Revolution broke out four years later, not only did Yosef help his fellow countrymen resettle, he also launched a monthly Farsi publication called *Shofar* (“Ram’s Horn”) so that the newly arrived immigrants would be well informed and feel more at home. As the 1980s progressed, Yosef took a step back from his business, which is now run by his sons Shaw and Frank, to focus on his true pas-

sion – philanthropy. He co-founded the Maccabee Foundation, Association of Iranian Doctors in New York, and the Iranian Jewish Federation of New York. He has been recognized with numerous awards for his decades-long charitable endeavors.

All four of Yosef and Farang’s children are involved in charities. “Our father inspired us to follow in his footsteps and naturally we try to pass this on to our own children,” says Shaw. “We hope the Yosef and Farang Shahery

Lobby will be a source of pride for our children and inspire them to undertake similar initiatives in the future.”

At the heart of the campus

Construction of the 54,000 ft. Check Point Building is well underway and is expected to be completed by December 2018. It will be the new home to two TAU units – the Youth University and the Blavatnik School of Computer Science – each of which will have its own wing. The building will serve thousands of students, faculty and schoolchildren annually.



Rendering of
the planned
building



GLOBAL EDGE

New Home for Nano

The Roman Abramovich Building for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology will give TAU a significant edge in the field

Imagine a building that brings together an entire community of scientists working on the nanoscale to experiment side-by-side. A building where they can manipulate the basic building blocks of life to develop new cures for cancer and drug delivery systems; methods for tissue and organ regeneration; more efficient, smaller and faster electronic devices; tiny batteries and new materials for solar energy harvesting; and many additional inventions that will improve the quality of our lives.

This vision will soon be realized through the construction of the Roman Abramovich Building which will be located on the eastern side of the campus, adjacent to Beit Hatfutsot – Museum of the Jewish People. It will house TAU's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, established 18 years ago, which unites 90 research groups from across campus.

Constant growth prompted the

Center to embark upon this ambitious new building project. Founding donor Roman Abramovich committed \$30 million toward the design and construction of the building, while additional supporters have stepped up with major gifts.

The building will enable the Nano Center to double its graduate student body from 60 to 120 and will help attract top young scientists from abroad, including returning Israeli researchers and post-docs from leading overseas institutions.

The design of the building was selected through an international architectural competition won by Michel Roman & Associates of France.

The ground floor of the building will house the Chaoul Center for Nanoscale Systems, a core laboratory with a sophisticated infrastructure and magnification equipment that will serve some 50 TAU teams as well as research groups from

other academic institutions and from industry. The first and second floors will comprise laboratories for specific researchers. There will also be ample space for events, workshops and seminars.

The second floor will house the Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology, where nanoscientists are already engineering a new generation of biomaterials that can be used to regenerate diseased organs and body parts such as the heart, brain, spinal cord, bone, tendons, cartilage and eyes.

Director of the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Prof. Yael Hanein stresses that the building aims to be a welcoming space for the exchange and circulation of ideas and to facilitate synergy between engineers, physicists, chemists and biologists. In addition, the building will contain elements of interest to the public. "We want the facility to have educational value," she says.



Over the past 30 years, the world has witnessed a substantial drop in the availability of potable water. Today, 884 million people worldwide – one in eight – do not have access to a safe water supply. The severe water shortage has forced people to turn to any water source available, including rivers, streams, lakes and wells that are chronically contaminated. As a result, over 2 million people, mostly children, die every year due to polluted water sources.

Now, to boost water research and solutions, TAU has launched the Moshe Mirilashvili Institute for Applied Water Studies. The agreement for the new institute was signed on campus by Michael Mirilashvili and TAU President Joseph Klafter. TAU Rector Yaron Oz moderated the ceremony.

Dr. Mirilashvili noted that the Institute was being established in memory of his father, Moshe, and spoke about the importance of water to global society and the contribution of his company, Watergen.

SUSTAINABLE PLANET

It's All about Water

The Institute will support and promote R&D involving pioneering water treatment technologies for drinking and agricultural purposes. It will also expand international cooperative ties between TAU, national water authorities and leading research institutions around the world, as well as award fellowships to exceptional TAU graduate students.

The Institute will be operated in the framework of the TAU Water Research Center, headed by hydrochemist Prof. Dror Avisar, a world authority on phar-

maceutical compounds found in the water supply.

Dr. Mirilashvili is a well-known philanthropist, donating to various causes in Israel and Russia, including the Friends of the IDF, the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem, ZAKA and other organizations. He serves as President of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress; Vice President of the Russian Jewish Congress and President of the Maccabi Union in Russia.



From left:
Prof. Dror
Avisar,
Dr. Michael
Mirilashvili
and TAU
Rector
Yaron Oz



TAU President
Joseph Klafter and
Prince Albert II of
Monaco



Aaron Frenkel

TAU Comes to Monaco

President Joseph Klafter, Rector Yaron Oz and Vice President for Resource Development Amos Elad.

The event kicked off with a symposium entitled "World Changing Solutions to Environmental Challenges," featuring panels on smart cities, biodiversity and ecology by speakers from TAU and Monegasque institutions. The symposium was held in collaboration with the Prince Albert II Foundation, which is dedicated to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development on a global scale.

The symposium was followed by a cocktail reception and festive concert

performed by Maestro Shlomo Mintz on violin and members of TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.

Guest of Honor at the gala dinner was Mr. Aaron G. Frenkel of Monaco, a businessman and philanthropist who was recognized for his contribution to Jewish causes and support of Israel.

TAU Governors attending included Sami and Tova Sagol; Sylvan and Margaret Adams; and Dafna Meitar-Nechmad, TAU Global Campaign Co-Chair. They were joined by representatives of TAU Friends Associations from France, the UK, Germany, Spain, Canada and Israel, in addition to Mr. Bernard Fautier, Vice President of the Prince Albert II Foundation.

Prof. Klafter thanked the French Friends, under the leadership of President Prof. François Heilbronn, for organizing the event, as well as the Jewish community in Monaco.

TAU held a highly successful weekend of activities in Monaco under the high patronage of its monarch, Prince Albert II. Some 150 participants enjoyed academic presentations, a concert and a gala dinner, as well as tours of the French and Italian Riviera. The TAU delegation was led by TAU

Celebrating the Next Big Ideas

at the 2018 Tel Aviv University
of Governors Meeting



Zimin Institute for Engineering Solutions Advancing Better Lives

Dmitry Zimin of the Russian Federation loves Israel's startup mentality and believes it can be harnessed to raise quality of life for people around the world.



Yandex Machine Learning Initiative

The founder of Russia's leading search engine, Arkady Volozh, foresees the need for training artificial intelligence experts and is supporting courses in the field for undergraduate students.

Board



Shmunis Family Anthropology Institute

American philanthropists Vlad and Sana Shmunis recognize the importance of understanding the past as a means of preparing for the future. Their support is providing the state-of-the-art equipment and resources needed to analyze the bones of ancient humans and reveal history's secrets.



Koret Foundation Tel Aviv University–Bay Area Collaborative Initiative

Showcasing Israeli academia while also strengthening its US links, the Koret Foundation is bringing together TAU scientists with colleagues at Stanford and Berkeley for innovative joint research in smart cities and bioinformatics.



Chaoul Center for Nanoscale Systems

Research at the new Center will reinforce Israeli nano R&D, intensify TAU's ties with industry, and advance pioneering devices that will directly enhance our lives, health and environment.



Shlomo Shmeltzer Institute for Smart Transportation

Family members of the late Shlomo Shmeltzer, founder of one of Israel's leading car rental companies, are perpetuating his memory through major support for industry-oriented R&D aimed at revolutionizing the automobile industry.



Genomics Research Unit supported by the Alfredo Federico Strauss Center for Computational Neuro-Imaging

The advanced equipment at this new unit will significantly increase the pace of research and discovery in fields ranging from neurobiology and cancer research to agriculture, archaeology and many more.



The Jacob Frenkel and Mort Zuckerman Institute for Global Economics

Eric Gertler and James Gertler of the US are dedicating the Jacob Frenkel and Mort Zuckerman Institute for Global Economics to promote outstanding scholarship on international financial markets and economic policy.



Toronto: Future of Start-up Nation

Dean of the Collier School of Management Moshe Zviran spoke to alumni, Friends and entrepreneurs at separate gatherings in Toronto, including an event hosted by Jay Rosenzweig at his office, Rosenzweig & Company, while Josh Kerbal hosted lunch at Extreme Innovations. Guests enjoyed Prof. Zviran's discussion of the future of the Start-up Nation and the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Israel.



From left: Nathan Disenhouse, Chair, CFTAU Ontario & Western Canada; Prof. Moshe Zviran; Jay Rosenzweig; Stephen Adler, Executive Director for Ontario and Western Canada

From left: Prof. Joseph Klafter and Dr. Hannes Androsch
Credit: Laura Böhler



Vienna: Thanking a Loyal Austrian Friend

TAU Austrian Friends, in cooperation with Medical University of Vienna and Semper Constantia Privatbank, hosted a successful fundraising dinner. The funds will support joint projects in cancer, epilepsy and schizophrenia research. TAU President Joseph Klafter bestowed the TAU President's Award upon the outgoing president of Austrian Friends, Dr. Hannes Androsch, for his 15 years of dedicated service to the University as well as his strengthening of ties between Austria and Israel.

Along with Dr. Androsch, speakers included Prof. Markus Müller, Rector, Medical University of Vienna, and Dr. Bernhard Ramsauer, the incoming president of Austrian Friends. The keynote address was given by TAU Vice Dean of Medicine Prof. Karen B. Avraham.

In a preceding event, an MoU for cooperation between TAU and the Medical University of Vienna was signed by Prof. Klafter and Rector Müller.

Seated from left:
Prof. Joseph Klafter;
Prof. Markus Müller
Standing from left:
Prof. Karen Avraham;
Alexander Gertner, General
Secretary of Austrian
Friends; Christiane Druml,
Director of the Josephinum
at Medical University of
Vienna



Zurich: World Currencies and the Shekel

The Swiss Friends expanded their cooperation with the Switzerland-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Bank Hapoalim, Switzerland, at an event with TAU economist and Chief Economic Advisor to Bank Hapoalim Prof. Leo Leiderman. He lectured and then fielded questions from a group of 150 Swiss businesspeople on the state of the Israeli shekel in relation to the world's leading currencies.



Prof. Leo Leiderman



Frankfurt: Visiting the European Central Bank

TAU Honorary Doctor and President of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, hosted a German Friends delegation of donors, Friends and businesspeople, giving his insights into current monetary policies and the challenges facing the European Union. The delegation toured the European Central Bank's headquarters at a site that was once used to detain thousands of Jews prior to their deportation for extermination in concentration camps.



From left: Mario Draghi with Uwe Becker, President of German Friends

... Top Global Friends Events

Madrid: Talking Diplomacy

Spanish Friends of TAU hosted a conference, cocktails and dinner at the Villa Magna Hotel in Madrid, attended by 100 guests from the Jewish community. Speakers included Prof. Yoav Tenembaum of the TAU Diplomacy Studies Program; Daniel Kutner, Israeli Ambassador to Spain; and moderator Felipe Sahagún, a prominent Spanish journalist.

Patricia Nahmad and Isaac Querub, co-presidents of the Spanish Friends, presented the inaugural Maimonides Prize to Padre Ángel, founder and head of the NGO Misioneros de la Paz (Messengers of Peace).

From left: Isaac Querub; Ms. Shirley Kutner; Ambassador Daniel Kutner; Remedios del Río, TAU Governor and VP Spanish Friends; Dr. Yoav Tenembaum; Astrid Misrahi, TAU Governor; Amos Elad, TAU VP for Resource Development; Patricia Nahmad; Elena Ohayon, TAU Spanish Friend; and Felipe Sahagún



London: Highlighting Israeli Ingenuity

In collaboration with UK Israel Business and the Institution of Engineering and Technology, TAU Trust joined the successful Innovate Israel Conference in London, attended by 180 technology and business representatives. TAU Ventures Managing Partner Nimrod Cohen was on hand to highlight TAU's technology R&D and commercialization process and present TAU student and alumni discoveries.

From left: Hugo Bieber, Chief Executive UK Israel Business; Nimrod Cohen, Managing Partner TAU Ventures; Prof. Joseph Klafter, TAU President; Cara Case, Chief Executive TAU Trust; Amos Elad, TAU Vice President for Resource Development and Public Affairs



Buenos Aires: Economic Perspectives

The Argentinean Friends of TAU held its 22nd International Economics Symposium with the participation of renowned economic and political analysts from Argentina and overseas. The annual event was attended by over 1,000 leading businesspeople and professionals from Argentina and Latin America. The theme of the Symposium was "Economic and Financial Overview: National and International Perspectives." The goal was to analyze the economic and financial situation as well as the socio-political one, both nationally and internationally. Greetings were given by President of the Argentinean Friends Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch.

From left: Claudio Zuchovski, Manager of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange; Miguel Kiguel, economist; Rodolfo Santangelo, economist and business consultant; Diana Mondino, Director of Institutional Relations, CEMA University; Ricardo Arriazu, economic and financial advisor; and Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch, President Argentinean Friends



São Paulo: Talking Economics

Brazilian Friends of TAU hosted Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg of TAU, former Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Israeli Council of Higher Education. During his visit, he spoke at several of Brazil's most prestigious academic and research institutions and participated in a friendly debate with former Mayor of São Paulo and Minister of Education Fernando Haddad. He also met with President of the Brazilian Central Bank Ilan Goldfajn, a former board member of Brazilian Friends.



From left: Herman Richter, TAU Senior Resource Executive, Latin America and Spain; Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg; Marcos Lederman, Head of the Center for Public Policy; Eduardo Wurzmans, President, Brazilian Friends



Montreal: Telling the Untold Story

Over 200 guests attended the official launch of Sephardi Voices, a CFTAU-initiated project jointly with TAU's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. The event was held at Montreal's famed Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. The project gives voice to the oral histories of some of the nearly one million Sephardi Jews who fled their homes in Arab lands in North Africa and the Middle East after the establishment of the State of Israel. Dayan Center Director Prof. Uzi Rabi presented a timely and interesting perspective on the Middle East and the Jews from Arab countries.

From left: Gladys Daoud, Board Member, CFTAU Event Chair and Montreal Chair of the Moshe Dayan Center / Sephardi Voices Project; Claire Dalfen, Past President, CFTAU, Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada; Meir Buber, TAU Senior Resource Executive for English speaking countries; Prof. Uzi Rabi; Professor Henry Green, Executive Director, Sephardi Voices, Department of Religious Studies, University of Miami; Judge Barbara Seal, CM, National President, CFTAU; Moishe Shiveck; Sass Peress, Vice President, CFTAU, Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada; Sharon J. Fraenkel, Executive Director, CFTAU, Ottawa, Quebec and Atlantic Canada



Miami: Upbeat at Bal Harbour

TAU benefactors Leslie Gelrubin Benitah and Harry Benitah opened their Bal Harbour home for an evening of cocktails, dessert and music. The AFTAU event featured eight musicians personally selected by Maestro Zubin Mehta, Honorary President of TAU's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, performing Franz Schubert and Alexander Krein. Opening the event were Gelrubin Benitah, AFTAU National Chairman Richard Sincere and AFTAU Board President David A. Hirsch.

From left: Ivonn Goihman, member of Host Committee; Leslie Gelrubin Benitah; Marie France Bloch, member of Host Committee



Marbella: Spearheading Medical Research

Spanish Friends of TAU hosted a fundraiser at the Los Monteros Hotel for its scholarship program, aimed at helping young Spaniards to study at TAU. Vice Dean of Medicine Prof. Karen Avraham spoke on groundbreaking research at TAU. Among the more than 60 guests were Francisca Caracuel, Third Vice President of the Provincial Diputation of Málaga and Deputy Mayor of Marbella; Rafael Cohen, Honorary Consul of Israel in Andalusia; and Patricia Nahmad, Co-President of Spanish Friends.

From left: Remedios Del Rio, TAU Governor and Spanish Friends Vice President; Francisca Caracuel; Prof. Karen Avraham; Patricia Nahmad; Marie Noelle Erize; Ben Nemenyi, TAU Governor and Spanish Friends Treasurer

New York City: Gala Fetes Steve Tisch

TAU Honorary Doctor and benefactor Steve Tisch was honored at a gala ceremony celebrating the achievements of the Steve Tisch School of Film & Television at TAU. The event was held at the IAC Building in New York, and was organized by American Friends of TAU. Gala vice-chairs included entertainment industry luminaries Matthew C. Blank; Len Blavatnik; TAU alumni Ari Folman and Eytan Fox; Allen J. Grubman; Bryan Lourd; Leslie Moonves; Richard Plepler; Haim and Dr. Cheryl Saban; and Chris Silbermann.

From left: Yum Coman-Becker, Steve Tisch School PhD student; Steve Tisch; Yona Rozenkier, Steve Tisch School graduate





Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin speaking at the Dayan Center in November 1994

50 Years of Dayan Center Impact

TAU's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies celebrated 50 years as Israel's leading think tank on the Middle East. Since its founding, the Center has played a major role in research and regional policy analysis and has been a regular platform for international statesmen, including Henry Kissinger, Condoleezza Rice and Yitzhak Rabin.

The Center issues numerous publications and is home to one of the world's largest Arabic press archives.

It offers innovative research programs, including one that analyzes social media activity among Arab, Persian and Turkish users. Dayan Center experts – including its Director Prof. Uzi Rabi – frequently provide in-depth commentary on regional developments in the Israeli and international media, as well as briefings to Israel's policymaking, defense and foreign affairs communities.

TAU Meets Pope Francis



Pictured: TAU President Joseph Klafter with His Eminence Pope Francis during a TAU-led mission to the Vatican to advance intercultural and inter-religious friendship.



Earth and one of the most environmentally severe. Among the attendees were experts from around the world who discussed diverse topics including medicinal benefits, biodiversity, geophysics, seismology, sociology, anthropology, disaster mitigation, environmental studies, and more.

The three-day summit was held at the Dead Sea Research Institute at Masada, and was a collaboration between the local Tamar Regional Council, the Porter Dead Sea Institute and the Dead Sea and Arava Science Center. Attending were TAU President Joseph Klafter and members of the TAU management; Dov Litvinoff, Mayor of Tamar Regional Council; Prof. Mauro Ferrari, Chairman of the International Board of Governors of the Dead Sea Research Institute; and Edny Raz, Director of the Porter Foundation in Israel.



Group photo at the Dead Sea Institute

Dead Sea: Lessons from Nature

A global scientific summit co-sponsored by TAU's Porter Institute for Life under Extreme Conditions, supported by TAU benefactor Dame Shirley Porter and the Porter Foundation, took place in the Dead Sea region on

the theme, "Life in Extreme Conditions – A Lesson from Nature." The conference explored the intersections between geological, environmental, medical and cultural aspects of this unique region – the lowest point on

Vienna Conference on Anti-Semitism

"An End to Anti-Semitism" was the title of a conference organized by TAU in Vienna, in cooperation with the University of Vienna, New York University and the European Jewish Congress. TAU expert on anti-Semitism Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at TAU and Chief Historian of Yad Vashem, was one of the main organizers.

More than 150 experts from around the world attended the event, which opened with a reception in the Vienna

City Hall hosted by Federal President of the Republic of Austria Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen. Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress, TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor, and founder of the Kantor Center at TAU, a co-sponsor of the event, spoke passionately of the need to "plant seeds that will end anti-Semitism." French philosopher and TAU Honorary Doctor Bernard-Henri Lévy was one of the speakers, while Pope Francis conveyed greetings to the event.



From left: Prof. Dina Porat; Christian Kern, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Austria and former Chancellor of Austria; Dr. Ariel Muzicant, Vice-President of the European Jewish Congress; and Prof. Armin Lange of the University of Vienna

Digital Living 2030 – TAU-Stanford Partnership

TAU has joined forces with Stanford University for "Digital Living 2030," an exciting program that focuses on future challenges of modern existence, including the technological, scientific, cyber, health, work and organizational related aspects that will shape our future lives. The program will bring together a consortium of some 50 TAU and Stanford faculty and students. They will work in areas related to data science and analytics, information systems, operations research, supply chains, transportation, security, privacy, control, social media and more. Heading the program at TAU is Prof. Irad Ben-Gal at the Department of Industrial Engineering. Heading the program at Stanford is Prof. Nick Bambos at the Department of Management Science and Engineering. The project received funding from Daniel Feldman of the US.

Africa-Israel Forum Launched

The Africa-Israel Forum was launched at TAU in partnership with the Brenthurst Foundation, an organization that works to strengthen Africa's economic performance. The new framework aims to become the premier meeting ground for leading business, academic and government figures from the African continent and Israel, in areas where both Israelis and Africans have shared interests.

The inaugural meeting featured a round table discussion with the participation of Brenthurst Foundation Director Greg Mills, together with Olusegun Obasanjo and Dickie Davis,

all co-authors of *Making Africa Work: A Handbook*. Former Prime Minister of Mozambique Madame Luisa Dias Diogo also participated.

TAU President Joseph Klaffer outlined the various areas of TAU expertise that are of particular relevance to Africa-Israel cooperation, including food security, sustainable development, renewable energy and smart cities. He also noted TAU's programs with African countries in medicine, including the TAU Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, as well as ongoing cooperation with Copperbelt Univer-



sity School of Medicine in Zambia through the Zambian Jewish Community Public Health Program.

Prof. Klaffer thanked TAU Governor Eytan Stibbe, Chairman of Vital Capital Fund, for his leadership in launching the Forum, as well as TAU Vice President Raanan Rein who co-organized the meeting.



From left: Prof. Raanan Rein, Eytan Stibbe and Erastus J.O. Mwencha



The delegation with TAU President Joseph Klafter and Vice President Raanan Rein

Vice-Presidential Delegation

A delegation of eight vice presidents from prominent American universities attended a four-day summit at TAU to discuss future international cooperation agreements with TAU. The universities represented were: Columbia, Yale, Emory, Maryland, UC Irvine, Florida International, Northwestern and Notre Dame. TAU Vice President Raanan Rein, who initiated the summit, said, "This was a unique opportunity for TAU to showcase its

achievements to American academic leaders from top universities and to discuss areas of future cooperation." Among other topics the summit focused on advanced technology for teaching programs and online courses that will "ensure the universities of the 21st century meet the needs of today's young students," noted Prof. Rein. The Israel Institute in Washington provided financial as well as operational support.

TAU-Yeshiva University Agreement in Engineering

TAU has entered into an agreement with Yeshiva University (YU), New York that enables YU students to complete their engineering degrees in the framework of TAU's International BSc Program in Electrical Engineering. The agreement was spearheaded by Prof. Ehud Heyman, Head of the TAU Program, and will target YU students who wish to study engineering in Israel, whether for making aliya or establishing connections in the Israeli high-tech industry.

Schulich Leaders Program

The Schulich Leaders Program at TAU continues to go from strength to strength. The Program, launched in 2012 to nurture the next generation of scientific and technological innovators, provides support for students in STEM disciplines. The program has expanded from 4 scholarship recipients in the first year to 7 each year in 2013 and 2014, and 10 new recipients each year over the past three years. The total number of Schulich Leaders at TAU to date is 48, of whom 14 have already graduated and 34 are still enrolled. The Program is the brainchild of Seymour Schulich of Canada.



From left: Dean of International Relations IIT, Bombay, Swati Patankar; Director of IIT-Mumbai Prof. Khakhar; Dr. Brian Rosen; and Prof. Michael Gozin of TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Chemistry.

Cooperation Agreement with Mumbai Institute

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between TAU and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, for cooperation in the fields of materials science engineering and energy sciences. The MoU was signed by TAU Rector Yaron Oz and Director of IIT-Mumbai, Prof.

Devang Khakhar, and covers faculty exchange and visits of researchers, joint conferences and symposia, and joint supervision of research students. Dr. Brian Rosen of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, initiated the agreement.

TAU and Konstanz University Mark 30 Years

Anniversary celebrations for 30 years of fruitful cooperation between TAU and Konstanz University, Germany, were held during a three-day conference at TAU on "Movement and Migration," supported by the Humboldt Foundation and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Since 1987, the cooperation agreement has yielded some 200 joint projects and over 120 scholarships for exchange



Prof. Dan Laor (left) and Prof. Günter Schatz

programs, noted TAU Rector Yaron Oz. During the proceedings Konstanz's Prof. Günter Schatz and TAU's Prof. Dan Laor were awarded medals of merit for their contribution to building bridges between the two institutions over the years. The initial agreement was made possible by the late Kurt Lion, TAU benefactor and founder of the Lion Foundation for cooperation between Israel and Konstanz University.

people

Friendship Award to Argentinean Vice President

Argentinean Vice President Marta Gabriela Michetti was presented with a TAU Friendship Award during a visit to the TAU campus. TAU President Joseph Klafter, together with Argentinean Friends President Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch, presented the award in recognition of Michetti's close friendship with Israel and her efforts to

strengthen academic and economic cooperation between Argentina and Israel. During the visit Michetti and her delegation heard presentations from TAU professors in the fields of genetics, cancer, rare diseases, urban innovation and sustainability, among others. Also attending was Amos Elad, TAU Vice President for Resource Development.



From left: Prof. Klafter, Vice President Marta Gabriela Michetti and Mrs. Polly Mizrahi de Deutsch

Mexican Ambassador at TAU

Mexican Ambassador Pablo Macedo visited TAU and met with key researchers whose projects have ties with Mexico, including Prof. Miguel Weil of the BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery and Prof. Dror Avisar, Head of TAU's Moshe Mirilashvili Institute for Applied Water Studies. Macedo also visited the Sverdlin Institute for Latin American History and Culture and met with TAU President Joseph Klafter and Vice President Raanan Rein. The ambassador met with seven international students from Mexico who shared with him their positive experiences of studying at

TAU. The ambassador was accompanied by TAU Governor and Honorary Fellow Guillermo Swerdlin and his wife, Miriam, and daughter, Dalia.



Mexican Ambassador Pablo Macedo (center) with Mexican students at TAU

Brazilian Minister of Education Visits

Mr. Mendonça Bezerra Filho, Education Minister of Brazil, visited the TAU campus on a trip to Israel sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Brazil. He was accompanied by Eduardo Wurzburg, Jewish Federation General Secretary and President of the TAU Friends of Brazil. During the visit he met with TAU President

Joseph Klafter and Vice President Raanan Rein and discussed potential areas of cooperation between TAU



and Brazil. The delegation toured TAU's Porter School of Environmental Studies, and met with Porter School Head Prof. Colin Price. An exciting highlight of the visit was a meeting between the Minister and two Brazilian students currently studying in TAU International programs whose studies were made possible through the Brazilian Scholarship Fund established two years ago by the TAU Friends in Brazil.



Brazilian Minister Mendonça Bezerra Filho receives a gift from TAU President Joseph Klafter



Sackler Biophysics Prize

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics 2017 was awarded to Prof. Tuomas P.J. Knowles of the University of Cambridge for his work elucidating the physical principles of amyloid fiber formation that has important applications for biology and medicine. The prize, administered by TAU, was established by TAU benefactors, the late Dr. Raymond Sackler and his wife, Beverly.



TAU President Joseph Klafter and Prof. Tuomas Knowles

Supreme Court Appointment

TAU alumna Esther Hayut was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel, the third woman to hold the post. Hayut is a graduate of TAU's Buchmann Faculty of Law and has served as Justice on the Supreme Court since 2003. She is an expert in commercial and tort law.



Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Esther Hayut

TAU Benefactor Gil Shwed Wins Israel Prize



TAU Governor and Honorary Doctor Gil Shwed, co-founder and CEO of cybersecurity company Check Point Software Technologies, has won the Israel Prize, Israel's highest honor. Shwed was recognized for his

pioneering role in Israel's high tech industry for some 25 years, and for promoting leadership and excellence among talented youngsters, including supporting TAU's Youth University and serving as the Chairman of its Executive Council. He is also the founding donor of the Check Point Building on campus, currently under construction, which will house both the Youth University and the Blavatnik School of Computer Science. The Israel Prizes were presented at the annual Israel Independence Day celebrations, which this year marked the State of Israel's 70th anniversary.

High Honor for TAU Cancer Specialist

TAU Professor Emeritus Isaac Witz was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Vienna at a ceremony marking the University's 653th anniversary. The ceremony was held in the presence of Austrian Federal President Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen. The award recognized Prof. Witz's life work in cancer research and his contribution to forging academic ties with researchers in Austria, including a cooperation agreement with the Medical University of Vienna and TAU's Cancer Biology Research Center, which he initiated.



Back row, from left: Prof. Heinz W. Engl, Rector of Vienna University; Dr. Alexander van der Bellen, Federal President of Austria; Prof. Isaac Witz; Prof. Bernhard Keppler, Dean, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Vienna.
Front row: Robert A. Shaw, Chemist and honorary doctorate recipient



Prof. Assaf Razin

EMET PRIZE

The EMET Prize in the social sciences, an annual prize given for excellence in academic and professional achievements under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office, was awarded to Prof. (emer.) Assaf Razin of TAU's Eitan Berglas School of Economics. Prof. Razin was recognized for his pioneering contribution to the understanding of macroeconomic issues impacting on the economic policies of states and international institutions. Prof. Razin joined the TAU faculty in 1970 after completing his PhD in Economics at the University of Chicago. At TAU he has served as Chairman of the Department of Economics, Dean of Social Sciences and as Vice Rector, and has held three research chairs. He has played a major role in the formation of Israeli economic policies, including serving as Head of the Economic Planning Authority in the Ministry of Finance. He has been on the editorial boards of several scientific journals and was a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the European Economic Association. He has authored and co-authored some 150 articles in journals and books.



Prof. Emanuel Peled

TOP DEFENSE PRIZE

The prestigious Israel Ministry of Defense Prize was awarded to Prof. (emer.) Emanuel Peled of TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Chemistry for creative thinking. Prof. Peled is a leading world expert in the field of batteries and fuel cells and developer, among other technologies, of important components of lithium batteries. Peled is a former Director of TAU's Wolfson Applied Material Research Center and Gordon Center of Energy Studies, and was incumbent of the Nathan Cummings Chair of Pure and Applied Electrochemistry. He is a recipient of the Electrochemical Society Battery Division Research Award, the Landau Research Award, the International Battery Association's (IBA) Award and the Israel Chemical Society Outstanding Scientist Award. He has published 177 papers and holds 47 patents and pending patents in the fields of batteries and fuel cells.



Gady Frank Appointed Director-General

Mr. Gady Frank has been appointed as the new Director-General of Tel Aviv University, replacing Mr. Mordechai Kohn who held the position for the past ten years. Mr. Frank is an alumnus of Tel Aviv University, having completed both his BA in Economics (*cum laude*) and Communication and MA in Economics (*cum laude*) on campus. From 2006-2009 he served as senior economist on the National Economic Council of the Prime Minister's Office. He then held several key positions on the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education (CHE), including as Deputy Director-General for Planning and Policy from 2009-11; Deputy Director General, Head of Budgeting Division from 2011-13; and Director General of the Planning and Budgetary Committee and the CHE from 2013-2017.



Prof. Ilana Eli Appointed TAU President's Advisor on Gender Equity

Prof. Ilana Eli, former Head of TAU's Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, was appointed as Special Advisor to the TAU President on Gender Equity. The position involves allocating resources and programs to redress imbalances in the representation of females in various academic fields at the University. A specialist in oral rehabilitation and chronic and acute pain in dental care, Prof. Eli has been a member of the TAU faculty since 1978. She has served as President of the Israeli Division of the International Association for Dental Research and as a member of several national and international committees.

Appointments: Prof. Slava Krilov, Engineering, incumbent of the Henry and Dina Krongold Chair in Microelectronics • Prof. Oded Lipschits, Humanities, incumbent of the Austria Chair in Archaeology of the Land of Israel in the Biblical Period • Prof. Jonathan Price, Humanities, in-

cumbent of the Fred and Helen Lessing Chair in Ancient History • Prof. Gideon Bohak, Humanities, incumbent of the Jacob M. Alkow Chair for the History of the Jews in the Ancient World • Prof. Ronit Sagi-Eisenberg, Medicine, incumbent of the Herczeg Memorial Chair of Argentine

Friends on Allergy and Related Diseases • **Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro**, Medicine, incumbent of the Hermann and Kurt Lion Chair in Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies • **Prof. Shlomo Lipitz**, Medicine, incumbent of the Gabriel Pinkas Chair for the Prevention and Diagnosis of Congenital Anomalies • **Prof. Zvi Fishelson**, Medicine, incumbent of the Roberts-Guthman Chair in Immunopharmacology • **Prof. Alain Serraf**, Medicine, incumbent of the Goldberg Chair in Pediatric Surgery • **Prof. Leora Bilsky**, Law, incumbent of the Benno Gitter Chair for Holocaust and Human Rights

• **Prof. Haim Diamant**, Exact Sciences, incumbent of the Riwka (Nee Schechter) and Iser Kodesz Chair in Chemical Dynamics • **Prof. Peter Bamberger**, Management, incumbent of the Prof. Simon I. Domberger Chair in Organization and Management • **Prof. Yaakov Bar**, Medicine, incumbent of the Emma Neiman Chair for Childbirth Research • **Prof. Amit Gefen**, Engineering, incumbent of the Herbert J. Berman Chair in Vascular Bioengineering • **Prof. Shai Danziger**, Management, incumbent of the Nathan Galston Chair in High-Tech Marketing.

Honors: 2017 Natalie Zemon David Lectures at Central European University, **Prof. Gadi Algazi**, Humanities • Honorary Doctorate of Sciences Po, **Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez**, Law • Juludan Research Prize, **Prof. Roy Beck-Barkai**, Exact Sciences • 2017 Sapir Award for Literature, **Dr. Michal Ben Naftali**, Humanities • 2018 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research, **Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef**, Humanities • Alon Fellowship, **Dr. Nir Bitansky**, Exact Sciences • SIAM Outstanding Paper Prize, **Prof. Niv Buchbinder**, Exact Sciences • Alon Fellowship, **Dr. Yaron Carmi**, Medicine • 2017 Sieratzki Prize for Advances in Neuroscience, **Dr. Nitzan Censor**, Social Sciences • Hermann Kümmler Early Achievement Award, **Dr. Guy Cohen**, Exact Sciences • VLDB 2017 Best Paper Award, **Prof. Daniel Deutch & team**, Exact Sciences • Rappaport Prize for Biomedical Sciences, **Prof. Tal Dvir**, Life Sciences • Knight of the Science and Arts of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS), **Prof. Lev Eppelbaum**, Exact Sciences • 2016 ACM Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award, **Prof. Amos Fiat**, Exact Sciences • European Complement Network (ECN) Medal for Lifetime Achievement, **Prof. Zvi Fishelson**, Medicine • Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, Philosophy and Jewish Thought Category, **Prof. Chaim Gans**, Law • European Pressure Ulcer Society's 2017 Experienced Investigator Award, **Prof. Amit Gefen**, Engineering • Gorni Award in Public Law, **Prof. Aeyal Gross**, Law • 2018 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research, **Prof. Iftach Haitner**, Exact Sciences • Colgate Award for Excellent Research in the Israeli Division IADR meeting; Marian Gertner Institute for Medical Nanosystems Excellence Award, **Dr. Michael Halperin-Sternfeld**, Medicine • Alon Fellowship, **Dr. Roni Ilan**, Exact Sciences • 2017 International Collaborative Prevention Research Award (SPR), **Prof. Moshe Israelashvili**, Education • Prof. Chaim Ring Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award, **Ms. Malka Itzkovitz**, Medicine • 2017 HBR McKinsey Award for co-authored article, **Prof. Alexandra Kalev**, Social Sciences • Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, **Prof. Marek Karliner**, Exact Sciences • Elected IMERA Fellow at the University of Aix-Marseille, **Prof. Nadine Kuperty-Tsur**, Humanities • Landau Prize for Genetics, **Prof. Martin Kupiec**, Life Sciences • Alon Fellowship, **Dr. Eliav Liebllich**, Law • Mifal Hapais Landau Prize for the Sciences, **Prof. Menachem Mautner**, Law • 2017 VLDB Women in Database Research Award, **Prof.**

Tova Milo, Exact Sciences • Joseph O. Hirschfelder Prize for 2017-18 of the Theoretical Chemistry Institute (TCI), **Prof. Abraham Nitzan**, Exact Sciences • 2018 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research, **Prof. Assaf Pinkus**, Arts • Washington Institute 2017 Book Prize Gold Medal, **Prof. Itamar Rabinovich**, Humanities • Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists in Israel, **Prof. Oded Rechavi**, Life Sciences • Azrieli Faculty Fellowship for 2017-18, **Dr. Shlomi Reuveni**, Exact Sciences • President-elect of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, **Prof. Eliora Ron**, Life Sciences • 2018 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research, **Prof. Dana Ron-Goldreich**, Engineering • Fattal Prize for Legal Research in Procedural Law; Holon Prize for Scholarship on Local Government, **Prof. Issachar Rosen-Zvi**, Law • Karl August Möbius Fellowship for 2018 honoring life-time achievement, **Profs. (emer.) Eugene Rosenberg and Ilana Zilber-Rosenberg**, Medicine • American Academy of Religion, Book Award for Excellence, Textual Studies category, **Dr. Lena Salaymeh**, Law • Chair of the Israeli Speech, Language & Hearing Association, **Dr. Osnat Segal**, Medicine • RECOMB 2017 "Test of Time Award," **Prof. Roded Sharan**, Exact Sciences • IS&T's 2018 Charles E. Ives Journal Award, **Dr. Arie Shaus**, Exact Sciences • Elected Member in the American National Academy of Education (NAEd), **Prof. Yossi Shavit**, Social Sciences • Rosetrees Trust Interdisciplinary Prize 2017, **Dr. Eran Socher**, Engineering • Silver Fellow in the ARVO Fellows Class of 2017, **Prof. Arie Solomon**, Medicine • Rosetrees Trust Interdisciplinary Prize 2017, **Dr. Eran Stark**, Medicine • 2017 Binkley-Stephenson Award from the Organization of American Historians, **Dr. Yael Sternhell**, Humanities • 2017 SAF Awards Program (Field Discovery Award), **Dr. Guy Stiebel**, Humanities • STOC 2017 Best Paper Award, **Prof. Amnon Ta-Shma**, Exact Sciences • Haichen Award for best Israeli book on a geopolitical topic for 2017, **Prof. Alon Tal**, Social Sciences • IS&T's 2018 Charles E. Ives Journal Award, **Prof. Eli Turkel**, Exact Sciences • Member of the Israeli Young Academy, **Prof. Tomer Volansky**, Exact Sciences • Honorary Doctorate from the University of Vienna, **Prof. (emer.) Isaac Witz**, Life Sciences • Zuckerman Faculty Scholar, **Dr. Omri Wurtzel**, Life Sciences • Ministry of Science, Technology and Space Excellence Post-Doctorate Fellowship, **Dr. Yoram Zarai**, Engineering • Cheshin Prize for Excellence in Legal Scholarship, **Prof. Neta Ziv**, Law.

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