The security challenges facing Israel, and current Austrian politics, were among the themes of the 16th European Regional Conference of the Board of Governors, held this year in the historic city of Vienna.

The Austrian Friends of TAU hosted the conference, which was sponsored by Bank Hapoalim and private donors from Austria. The 180 participants included governors and supporters of the university from Europe, Israel and North America.

The conference opened with a performance of Fidelio by Ludwig van Beethoven at the Vienna State Opera followed by a gala dinner sponsored by Bank Hapoalim. Greetings were given by Dr. Hannes Androsch, President of the Austrian Friends of TAU.

Representing TAU at the conference were Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, President; Prof. Dany Leviatan, Rector; Yehiel Ben-Zvi, Vice President; and Danny Shapiro, Director of the Development and Public Affairs Division.

The conference’s first academic session focused on international politics, security and the media, with the participation of Dan Meridor, former Minister of Finance and Justice Minister of Israel and Vice Chairman of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at TAU; and Prof. Rabinovich, who spoke on “The Middle East Arena, Spring 2007.” Other sessions focused on current Austrian politics and Jewish life in Vienna in the footsteps of Sigmund Freud.

Richard Sincere, TAU Governor and member of the TAU American Council Board of Directors, said: "The Vienna meeting of the International Board of Governors was a wonderful opportunity to meet with fellow board members and share our mutual support for the university, while enjoying informative lectures and events supported by the Vienna Friends Association."

Edith Teomim, TAU Governor and Chairperson of the Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth-Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, on the TAU campus said: "The organization of the Vienna conference was outstanding. I enjoyed the performance of Fidelio and learned a lot about Israeli national security from Dan Meridor and Prof. Itamar Rabinovich. As someone who was born in Austria, it was extremely moving to hear the genuine outpouring of warmth toward the Jewish people in the speech of the Federal President."

Dr. Hannes Androsch, President of the Austrian Friends of TAU, said: "The Austrian Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer (left) and Prof. Itamar Rabinovich (right) attended the conference.

The 6th Framework Program for Research and Development involved partners from Austrian universities and research organizations. "This is a clear sign of the high level of scientific and technological cooperation between TAU and partner institutions in Austria. I am convinced this trend will continue in the 7th Framework program," said Dr. Hahn.

Other conference events included a reception and lunch at the Vienna Town Hall; a reception at the former Imperial Palace of Vienna under the auspices of Federal President of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer, who related his experiences volunteering on a kibbutz in the early 1960s; a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner sponsored by TAU Governor Georg Katcz and attended by Dr. Ariel Muzicant, President of the Jewish Community of Vienna, and Dan Ashbel, Israeli Ambassador to Austria; an excursion to the Liechtenstein Museum and Klosterneuburg Abbey, including a rare view of the abbey’s treasures; and a reception and farewell dinner hosted by TAU governors Rudolfine Steindling and Dr. Androsch."
Chair in German Literature Inaugurated

The Marcel Reich-Ranicki Chair in German Literature at TAU’s Einat Faculty of Humanities was inaugurated on Monday at the ceremony held at the school’s Rabin Auditorium. The 2007 Dan David Prize Winner for the Field of History, Dr. Marcel Reich-Ranicki, was the guest of honor at the event. Reich-Ranicki, a renowned German literary critic and TAU honorary doctor, was the guest of honor at the event. Reich-Ranicki, a renowned German literary critic and TAU honorary doctor, was the guest of honor at the event.

The prize ceremony was organized by Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, who introduced the speech by Prof. Marcel Reich-Ranicki. The speech was followed by an address by Prof. Yoel Kloog, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, who praised the Faculty and its achievements, and by a message from Prof. Marcel Reich-Ranicki. The speech was followed by an address by Prof. Yoel Kloog, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, who praised the Faculty and its achievements.

The ceremony was also attended by the Honorary President of TAU, Prof. Marcel Reich-Ranicki, who spoke about the importance of the German language and culture in the world and the significance of the German language in the world and the significance of the German language to the world.

Chair Honors Leading Israeli Media Advisor

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres were guests of honor at the inauguration of the Moshe Tevzon Chair in Communications at TAU’s Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences. The chair was established by the family of Moshe Tevzon, a former Israeli diplomat and journalist, in recognition of his contribution to shaping the public discourse in Israel.

The ceremony was attended by Prof. Marcel Reich-Ranicki, the guest of honor, who spoke about the importance of the German language and culture in the world and the significance of the German language in the world and the significance of the German language to the world.

Book Launch Addresses Challenges Facing American Jewry

Pioneering Jewish-American community leader, financier, philanthropist and philanthropist Scott A. Shay was guest of honor at TAU on an event marking the launch of his book, Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry. The event was hosted by President Yisrael and Hapoalim Foundation and the Bank Hapoalim. The book outlines Shay’s concerns for the future of American Jewry and proposes practical solutions for revitalizing the shrinking American Jewish population. Cymbalista Center Head Prof. Avram Raviv and the book’s publisher, TAU and the Bank Hapoalim, were among those present at the event.

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The 2007 Oration of the Victoria Chapter of the Australian Friends Association, dedicated to the late Peta Veret, a Friends member, included a lecture by Judge Michael Rosner, Chief Judge of the County Court of Victoria, who spoke on “Targeting Terrorists and Pedophiles – A Response to the Concerns about Safety.”

Prof. Karen B. Avraham of the Department of Human Genetics, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, spoke on “The Future of Genetics: Lessons from the Study of Deafness,” at an event organized by the Victoria Chapter.

TAU Vice President Urieli Ben-Zvi attended the Annual General Meeting of the Victoria Chapter, which was followed by a lecture by Prof. Tamir Ronen, Head of TAU’s Bob Shapell School of Social Work. She spoke on “How to Control Your Life Rather Than Have It Control You.” At other friends events, Joshua Freydenberg, Director of Global Banking at Deutsche Bank and former senior advisor to the Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, spoke on “Looking over the Political Horizon – An Insider’s Perspective.”

New South Wales

Gerry Harvey, founder and chairman of Harvey Norman, discussed “The Secrets of My Success – From Retailing to Horses and Beyond,” at a business lunch held by the Australian friends together with the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Toronto

Marin Perkin (pictured) a senior executive in the Canadian hospitality industry and long-time supporter of Israel, has been named President of the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University. A former executive vice president of Cara Corporation, he sits on the board of a number of companies. He has a strong background in volunteering, and has been involved in Israel with Beth Halsolch and the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. Mr. Perkin has been on the Executive of the Canadian Friends for several years and chairs the Overseas Students Program committee. Together with his wife Joan, he supports needy students at TAU who have served in IDF combat units.

TAU Vice President Urieli Ben-Zvi was guest of honor at a reception held at the home of Martin and Joan Perkin. The reception also included a presentation by TAU’s Dr. Ron Zucker and Dr. Benny Melik who participated in the exchange program between the university’s Sackler School of Medicine and the Tokyo University for Sick Children.

Several hundred people heard Paul Gil Tsey of McGill University discuss his highly acclaimed book Why I Am a Zenist at the Jewish Book Fair event sponsored by the Toronto Friends. Prof. Troy is a member of the Board of Governors of the Montefiore Chapter of the Canadian Friends Association.

Montreal

Prof. Asher Susser, Director of TAU’s Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, spoke to the young Montreal leadership at an event organized by the Montreal Chapter of the Canadian Friends. He was also guest of honor at a reception for friends and donors hosted by TAU Honorary Doctor Marcel Adamo, member of TAU’s Board of Governors.

New York

The English Speaking Friends of Tel-Aviv University together with the Buchmann Faculty of Law are offering a seminar on public law, with a focus on public policy and social issues, organized by Dr. Neta Ziv. Faculty specialists will give a series of introductory lectures on the country’s legal systems, and address current issues in international, constitutional, administrative and local government law. Proceeds from these lectures will benefit the university’s legal clinics, which provide free legal assistance to low-income individuals and groups.

Israel

Israel’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dan Gillerman, lectured on the status of Israel in the world at the opening session of the TAU Student Convocation on December 4.

The following guest lecturers were hosted by the International Student Office: Shlomo Martin, former TAU board member, Professor of Economics and President of the Free Trade Group and attended a fundraising dinner hosted by the Romanos.

Ambassador Dan Gillerman

Business-Academic Club of the Israeli Friends of TAU. The club, consisting of representatives of Israel’s leading firms, promotes synergy between the business community and TAU. The president of the Friends and TAU Executive Council, member Alfred Alkon welcomed the 200 guests and emphasized the importance of Israeli companies’ involvement in advancing research and supporting students at TAU.


france

The students together with François Hallermon, Vice President of the French Friends.

argentina

The TAU Friends in Argentina held their traditional annual symposium on “Israel: Risks and Challenges,” in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Guest of honor was Ambassador Alan Pinkas, former Israeli Consul General in New York. More than 1,500 guests attended the symposium including Yael Bunis and Rafael Eidel, the Ambassadors of Israel to Uruguay and Argentina, respectively. Opening greetings were delivered by Mrs. Polly Druksa, President of the Argentinean Friends Association. Dr. Henry Cohen, President of the Uruguayan Friends, screened video greetings sent by Shimoni Myers, Israeli Vice Prime Minister. The panel included Dr. Marcus Agius, writer and TAU honorary doctor. Receipts were given by Enrique and Vivian Mandelb and TAU Governors Miriam and Adolfo Smolarz and Lorena and Albert and Elba Cuernia.
The Anda and Henri Zimand Film Archive was inaugurated at TAU’s Yodolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts by Henri Zimand. The donation commemorates the special relationship of Henri Zimand and his late wife Anda, who died of breast cancer at the age of 49. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, TAU President Yehiel Ben-Zvi said, “Henri and Anda’s was a perfect union, one of mutual admiration, warmth and love. Henri is a citizen of the world and a man who gives of himself generously to society and community.” Honored in the Mexico Building of the Katz Faculty of the Arts, the archive is a key resource for the study and research of film in Israel comprising over 15,000 titles in fiction, documentary, animation, experimental and student genres. The archive plays a central role in the activities of students at the Department of Film and Television.

All in the Family

Members of the extended Garwirth family attended scholarship awarding ceremonies on campus honoring their relatives. Marguerite Stolz Research Fellowships for Junior Faculty in Medicine and Health Professions were conferred by Mrs. Stella’s son Dr. Andrew Stolz of Los Angeles, Trustee of the Aaron Garwirth Fund; Lottie and Charles Zucker Scholarships were awarded by Benjamin Zucker and Margot Mindick Zucker of New York in honor of their parents; the Bernstein Schaffer Benno Poetry Prize was presented to Ron Ben Tovim by Barbara Zucker in honor of her mother; and Hendrik and Irene Garwirth Scholarships in Diabetes Mellitus Research for medical students were awarded by Vivien Zimmet of Melbourne, Australia, in memory of her parents.

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**Northeast Region**

- Former US Ambassador to the UN Richard C. Holbrooke was guest of honor at an event hosted by the TAU American Council in New York. TAU President Yehiel Ben-Zvi presented Ambassador Holbrooke with the university’s George S. Wise Medal for International Cooperation, describing him as “a great statesman and one of the most successful diplomats produced by the US.” Prof. Rahimovich engagi Ambassador Holbrooke in a dialogue on affairs ranging from the former Yugoslavia (where Holbrooke served as peace negotiator) to Israel’s position vis-à-vis the Arab world and the Palestinians, to the implications of Iran’s quest for power. Closing remarks were given by Chairman of the TAU Board of Governors Robert Goldburg.

- Prof. Ascher Susser, Director of TAU’s Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, was the guest speaker at a cocktail reception held at the law firm Morrison & Foerster. He was hosted by Oy Benhamra, a TAU alumna and a partner at the firm.

- Dr. Neta Ziv of the Buchmann Faculty of Law addressed the issues of economic justice and gender equality at an event jointly sponsored by TAU and Hadassah.

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**Southeast Region**

- Prof. David Menashri, Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at TAU and Dean of Special Programs was the guest speaker at Florida International University for the opening lectures of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Educational Series, sponsored by the Shepard Broad Foundation, Inc. Prof. Menashri spoke on “In the Aftermath of the War in Lebanon: Is There a Middle East?” The event was organized by the TAU American Council.

- Prof. Menashri was also guest at a private dinner hosted by Jacqueline Simkin and Mark Tennenbaum, members of the TAU Board of Governors.

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**Western Region**

- Los Angeles community leader Rita Spiegel hosted a briefing by Prof. Asher Susser, Director of TAU’s Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. Prof. Susser spoke on the challenges for Israel in the light of the recent war in Lebanon to an audience of Western Region members and leaders, including Country of Los Angeles Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and his wife Barbara, and California State Assembly member Michael Feuer.

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**West Region**

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AVBA Laboratory Dedicated

The AVBA Student Laboratory for E-Beam Lithography was dedicated at TAU’s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology by AVBA High Tech Services, a company that provides engineering services and equipment to the semiconductor industry. The laboratory, which contains a scanning electron microscope operated by an electron beam, is used to characterize and produce nanometric devices (1 nanometer = one-millionth of a millimeter) and enables students to acquire skills for microelectronics and nanotechnology applications.

The donation was initiated by Avi Farber, Vice President of Technology at AVBA and a TAU alumnus, who has served as advisor to other projects at TAU’s Fleischman Faculty of Engineering. AVBA has previously donated equipment to TAU’s Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Center.

Participating in the ceremony were Victor Orland, CEO of AVBA, and Farber.

TAU governor Mark Tanenbaum of Miami, Florida, is pictured here with the dedication certificate for a course in jazz improvisation he established at TAU’s Buchmann-Mehta School of Music. Tanenbaum, who is a TAU alumnus in Middle Eastern politics, serves on the Board of Directors of TAU’s Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Board of Directors of the TAU American Council.

When Josef Buchmann decided to link his name and that of renowned maestro Zubin Mehta with musical education at TAU, it represented the latest in a string of generous, visionary and influential donations to the University.

The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, which he founded in 2004, is now Israel’s leading institution in the field, due in part to its landmark partnership with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO). Josef Buchmann is a longstanding benefactor of the IPO and a close friend of Zubin Mehta, the IPO musical director. The school is preparing new generations of exceptional young musicians – orchestral performers, conductors and others – for professional careers and ensuring the future of Israel’s orchestras.

Since the school’s creation, over 50 students have performed with the IPO, and 40 of the world’s leading musicians have visited to give master classes. In the summer of 2006 alone, seven students of the school won prizes in prestigious international competitions, while the school’s Symphony Orchestra performed in some of Europe’s most prestigious venues, including the Konzerthaus in Berlin, and received glowing reviews.

The music school ties in seamlessly with Mr. Buchmann’s other major initiatives at the University, all of which follow his desire “to invest not in mortar and stones alone, but in people.”

Buchmann’s heart: to promote deeper mutual understanding between Jews and non-Jews, Israelis and Germans. To date, the Fund has supported 140 doctoral candidates from the two institutions.

Another of his prominent contributions is the Buchmann Fellowship Fund at TAU and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. Behind the project was a goal close to Buchmann’s heart: to promote deeper mutual understanding between Jews and non-Jews, Israelis and Germans. To date, the Fund has supported 140 doctoral candidates from the two institutions.

Supporting research and scholarship

Buchmann’s involvement with TAU began in 1983, when he endowed the Josef Buchmann Doctoral Fellowship Fund at TAU and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. Behind the project was a goal close to Buchmann’s heart: to promote deeper mutual understanding between Jews and non-Jews, Israelis and Germans. To date, the Fund has supported 140 doctoral candidates from the two institutions.

Surviving the Holocaust

Josef Buchmann was born in Lodz, Poland, the fourth child of Eliezer and Haya Sara Buchmann. Most of his family was killed by the Nazis, but he survived the concentration camps and was liberated from Bergen-Belsen in 1945 at the age of 15.

Today, Buchmann is a successful businessman in Germany. He has made it his life’s work to give to others in areas that he missed out on as a child, and has been a generous supporter of numerous educational, welfare, cultural, historical and religious organizations in Frankfurt and Israel for decades. For his exceptional contributions to the University and Israel, Josef Buchmann was awarded a TAU honorary doctorate in 2002. Among his many other awards and accolades, he has been recognized by President Ezer Weizman in the framework of Israel’s 50th anniversary celebrations, and by Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon for his contributions to the State of Israel. Tel Aviv University is proud to call him a friend.

The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra held the third annual gala concert in the Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, conducted by Zubin Mehta, the school’s honorary president.

Erratum: The Max Perlman Award of Excellence in Global Business Management was not awarded in the year 2006 as published in the Fall 2006 issue. Insider regrets the error.

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