SCOPUS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

VOLUME 62 2015/2016

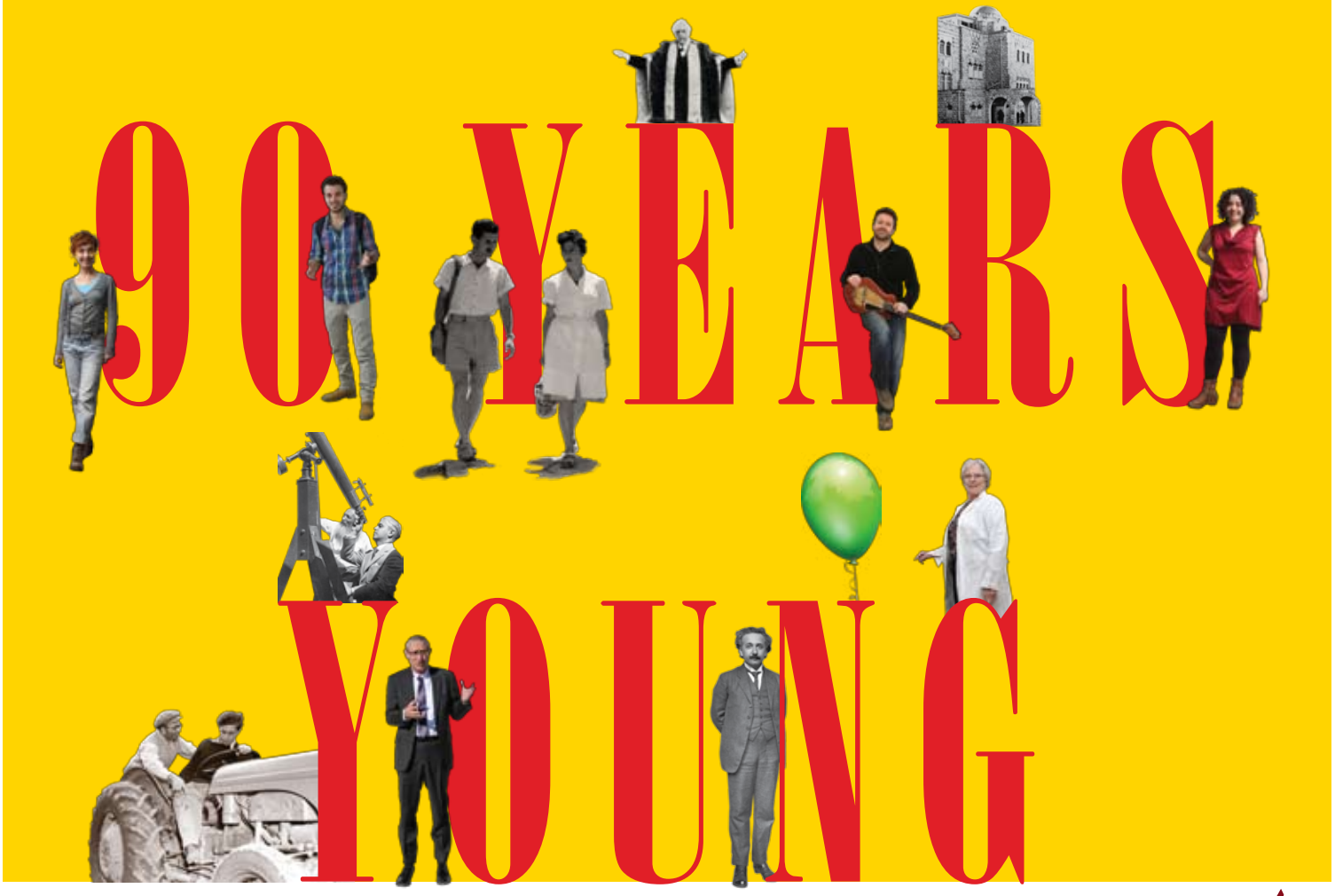
Albert Einstein: The Mission of Our University

Illustrious Service to Science & Scholarship

Healer of Wounds, Redeemer of Evils

SPECIAL INSERT

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School
for Advanced Studies in the Humanities



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel's first university, is a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning and research where intellectual pioneering, cutting-edge discovery and a passion for learning flourish. It is a center of international repute, with ties extending to and from the worldwide scientific and academic community and where teaching and research interact to create innovative approaches that ensure the broadest of educations for its students.

Ranked among the world's leading universities, at the Hebrew University Israelis of all backgrounds receive a university education where excellence is emphasized; where advanced, postgraduate study and research are encouraged; and where special programs and conferences attract students and academics from around the world.

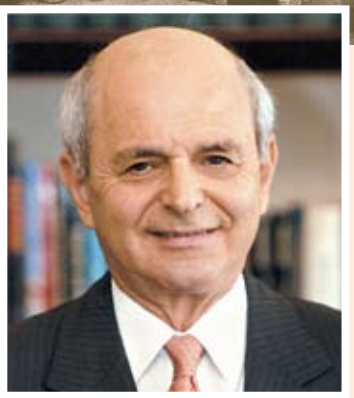
At its core, the Hebrew University's mission is to develop cutting-edge research, to educate future leaders in all walks of life, and to nurture future generations of outstanding scientists and scholars in all fields of learning.

LOCATION On six campuses: three in Jerusalem (Mount Scopus, Edmond J. Safra and Ein Kerem) and in Rehovot, Beit Dagan and Eilat

ENROLLMENT 23,000 students including 12,500 undergraduates, 5,000 masters students, 2,200 doctoral candidates and 3,300 overseas and pre-academic students, postdoctoral fellows and others

FACULTY 947

RESEARCH 3,500 projects in progress in University departments and some 90 subject-related and interdisciplinary research centers



WE are inspired "to great and even greater tasks"

Top: Foundation stones-laying ceremony, Mount Scopus, 1918

"WE have today laid the foundation-stone of the first Jewish university, which is to be erected on this hill, overlooking the city of Jerusalem."

In 1918, at the laying of the foundation stones for the Hebrew University, its main proponent Chaim Weizmann remembered the "souls of those who have made our history here with us today, inspiring us, urging us onward, to great and ever greater tasks." This year, on the 90th anniversary of the Hebrew University's opening, we too think back to Weizmann, Albert Einstein, Martin Buber, Judah Magnes and our other founders as they looked to the past — and then to the future. Through their devoted efforts, they made the future happen. And just as they were inspired by those before them, so too are we inspired by them — "to great and ever greater tasks".

In this edition of *Scopus* you will encounter some of our early pioneering scientists and scholars and their successors who are creating knowledge for a changing world: From preeminent thinkers Professors Gershom Scholem and Martin Buber from our first years through to Professors Michael Rabin, Jona Rosenfeld, Marta Weinstock-Rosin, Itzhak Zamir and Jaacov Katan from more recent years, and current rising stars such as Dr. Ofra Benny, Dr. Keren Weinshall-Margel and Dr. Shay Covo.

We also present Albert Einstein's aspirations for the Hebrew University, as expressed in 1925 in his 'The Mission of Our University', and we examine how we measure up. Of course, no picture of our University would be complete without the chance to meet our students and learn about some of our newest educational programs — most notably the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities which, as Israel's first graduate school in the humanities, continues our spirit of innovation.

As we celebrate and look ahead, there is much of which we can all be proud: We continue to lead Israeli higher education; our research innovations improve and enhance life, and our many graduates have shaped — and continue to shape — all aspects of life and society in Israel and abroad. Likewise our faculty and students remain on the cutting edge — as evidenced by our rich research and development output and the numerous, often-prestigious grants and prizes awarded and articles published in top journals. We are proud of our diverse community of scholars which draws its members from the full spectrum of Israeli society and the global community.

Nevertheless, we are inspired "to great and even greater tasks". We know that we can do even better, and with your partnership, we will continue to ask questions, to innovate, to teach, to share, and to achieve — for a better Israel, and for a better world.

Michael Federmann
Chairman, Board of Governors

Menahem Ben-Sasson
President

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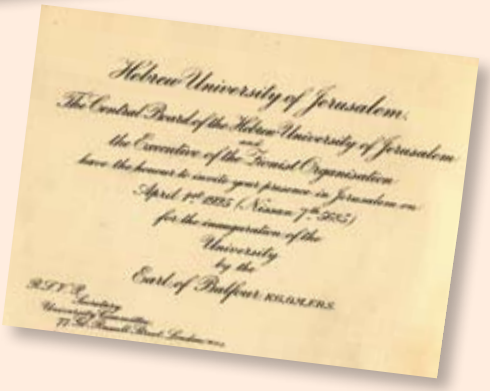


כרטיס כניסה
לחגיגת הפתיחה של האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלם
ביום ד', ז' ניסן תרפ"ה, בשעה 2.45 אחה"צ.
בא להביא את הכרטיס הזה.
TICKET OF ADMISSION.
Opening of
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM.
On Wednesday, April 1st, 1925, at 2.45 p.m.
Please bring the ticket with you.
تذكرة دخول
لحفلة افتتاح الجامعة العبرية في القدس
يوم الاربعاء في اول نيسان سنة ١٩٢٥ الساعة ٢٫٤٥ بعد الظهر
المرجو ان تكون هذه التذكرة عند الداخل

From top: Lord Balfour declares the Hebrew University open, Mount Scopus, April 1, 1925; invitation to the opening ceremony; students on the steps of Terra Sancta College, which became one of the University's temporary homes when war conditions prevailed in 1948 and Mount Scopus became inaccessible, 1951; entry ticket to the 1925 opening ceremony

From top: University President Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson with law students Amid Khouri and Marian Far; research at the Ein Kerem medical campus; enjoying the view from the Rothberg Amphitheatre, site of the University's 1925 opening ceremony

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A Place Where the Universality of the Human Spirit Manifests Itself

Albert Einstein, 'The Mission of Our University', 1925

In 'The Mission of Our University', published on the opening of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in April 1925, Albert Einstein gave voice to his longtime advocacy of a university to be established by the Jewish people in its ancestral homeland and presented his vision for the new institution's role as a great spiritual center. Ninety years later, Hebrew University Professor President Menahem Ben-Sasson reflects on Einstein's words.

Above: The monumental oil painting 'The Opening of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, April 1, 1925' by British artist Leopold Pilichowsky was begun during the opening ceremony but took two years to complete, based on photographs; today the painting hangs in the entrance to the University's Sherman Administration Building on Mount Scopus. Opposite: Albert Einstein and Dr. Chaim Weizmann during their 1921 trip to the US to raise funds for the establishment of the Hebrew University

1925: The Mission of Our University

by Professor Albert Einstein

THE opening of our Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, at Jerusalem, is an event which should not only fill us with just pride, but should also inspire us to serious reflection.

A University is a place where the universality of the human spirit manifests itself. Science and investigation recognize as their aim the truth only. It is natural, therefore, that institutions which serve the interests of science should be a factor making for the union of nations and men. Unfortunately, the universities of Europe today are for the most part the nurseries of chauvinism and of a blind intolerance of all things foreign to the particular nation or race, of all things bearing the stamp of a different individuality. Under this regime the Jews are the principle sufferers, not only because they are thwarted in their desire for free participation and in their striving for education, but also because most Jews find themselves particularly cramped in this spirit of narrow nationalism. On this occasion of the birth of our University, I should like to express the hope that our University

will always be free from this evil, that teachers and students will always preserve the consciousness that they serve their people best when they maintain its union with humanity and with the highest human values.

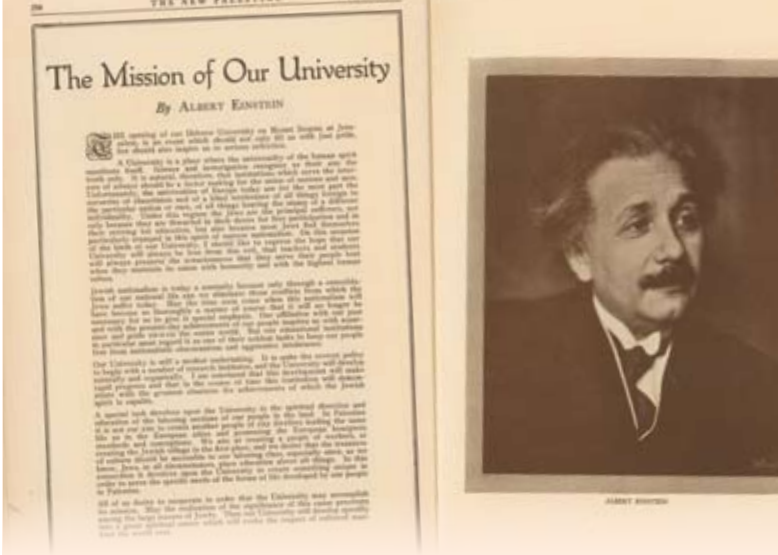
Jewish nationalism is today a necessity because only through a consolidation of our national life can we eliminate those conflicts from which the Jews suffer today. May the time soon come when this nationalism will have become so thoroughly a matter of course that it will no longer be necessary for us give it special emphasis. Our affiliation with our past and with the present-day achievements of our people inspires us with assurance and pride *vis-à-vis* the entire world. But our educational institutions in particular must regard it as one of their noblest tasks to keep our people free from nationalistic obscurantism and aggressive intolerance.

Our university is still a modest undertaking. It is quite the correct policy to begin with a number of research institutes, and the University will develop naturally and organically. I am convinced that this development will make rapid progress and that in the course of time this institution will demonstrate with the greatest clearness the achievements of which the Jewish spirit is capable.

A special task devolves upon the University in the spiritual direction and education of the laboring sections of our people in the land. In Palestine it is not our aim to create another people of city dwellers leading the same life as in European cities and possessing the European bourgeois standards and conceptions. We aim at creating a people of workers, at creating the Jewish village in the first place, and we desire that the treasures of culture should be accessible to our laboring class, especially since, as we know, Jews, in all circumstances, place education above all things. In this connection it devolves upon the University to create something unique in order to serve the specific needs of the forms of life developed by our people in Palestine.


Yad Chaim Weizmann, The Weizmann Archives, Rehovot, Israel

All of us desire to cooperate in order that the University may accomplish its mission. May the realization of the significance of this cause penetrate among the large masses of Jewry. Then our University will develop speedily into a great spiritual center which will evoke the respect of cultured mankind the world over.


The Mission of Our University

By Albert Einstein

A Hundred Years of Relativity

In 1915, Albert Einstein presented his groundbreaking General Theory of Relativity — showing how gravity can bend space and time — to the Royal Academy of Science in Berlin. Ten years later, in 1925, on the opening of the Hebrew University and four years after Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics, the University received the 46-page handwritten explanation of his General Theory as a gift.

Einstein had been an advocate of the University since 1920 when its main proponent Chaim Weizmann had enlisted him in his longtime efforts to set up a Hebrew University. Einstein contributed to the plans and discussions leading to the University's opening and in 1921, in his first trip outside Europe, joined Weizmann on a six-week fundraising trip in the US. Between 1921 and 1925, during his frequent worldwide lecture tours, Einstein often pleaded the University's cause in distant Jewish communities. In 1923, on a stopover from Japan, he made his only trip to Palestine where, in a British police academy hall on Mount Scopus, he gave the University's first-ever scientific lecture, opening with a few words in Hebrew and then continuing in French.

Einstein maintained his commitment throughout his years at Princeton and helped in the University's major expansion drive following World War Two. When he died in 1955, Einstein left his own true wealth — in this case intellectual: his personal papers and literary estate — to the Hebrew University. Together with his library, which the University received in 1987, they make up the Albert Einstein Archives at the Edmond J. Safra Campus.

2015: In Response

by Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson

WHILE the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's 90th anniversary is cause for much pride as we reflect on its past, it also offers inspiration for our future. This year, a process of soul-searching has led to the development of a bold strategy that ensures renewal and progress, and shall affect the entire University family, including our worldwide Friends organizations.

The description of the nature and goal of a university, written by Albert Einstein 90 years ago, should act as the guiding principles for every university today.

Our University's unique role as the University of the Jewish People is expressed through the preservation of our national heritage and through our affiliation and strong ties with the Jewish world. At the same time, our University is committed to universal values and sees itself responsible for elevating the human spirit, while taking into account diversity among peoples and remaining faithful to the creation of a pluralistic and secure society for all its members. It is incumbent upon us at the Hebrew University — in Jerusalem, which is such a unique and diverse city — to create a role model of an equal society. If not, who is going to show the way? Our University must be a community in which people of every religion and nationality stand equal as they further science and research.

The Hebrew University's responsibility towards higher education in Israel did not end with its success in cultivating and creating the country's other educational institutes. Rather, it remains responsible for leadership and excellence: for setting the bar for Israeli academia, for upholding academic freedom, and as an honest partner in the daily effort to create a better future — rooted in academic and scientific development — for society as a whole.

Undoubtedly, this vision has been fulfilled — possibly even surpassing the expectations of our founding fathers.

At the heart of the Hebrew University's very endeavors is its scientific research, a process comprising various stages: the gathering and thorough analysis of core data; critical review of methods employed to elucidate this data; the synthesis of working hypotheses that support analyses of the data; and repeated examination of conclusions and theories. Such an approach ensures that our pursuit of truth remain pure and unfettered.

In all fields, our research must be conducted in harmony with the academic community — with University colleagues, with students, and with scholars throughout the world. Indeed, it is only through constant engagement with the academic community that optimal research results can be attained. This means that our research must be unbiased; it must comprise a search for truth whose common language is intergenerational and international

Hebrew University President Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson at the Rothberg Amphitheatre, site of the University's 1925 opening ceremony

— and which has no borders whatsoever, be they geo-political, religious, nationalist, ethnic or gender.

The Hebrew University is a proud member of the world of academia. It is in constant dialogue with its international counterparts and is a full partner in the global advancement — and in upholding the preeminent status — of research and knowledge among individuals and societies. The University's global outreach not only underpins its cooperative networks but is the basis for its own development.

We are living in times when calls for boycotts of Israeli research and Hebrew University scholars are being heard throughout the academic world. The Hebrew University is determined to lead the struggle against these trends — and, in so doing, uphold the fundamental value of academic activity.

United in the Great Common Task of Searching for Truth

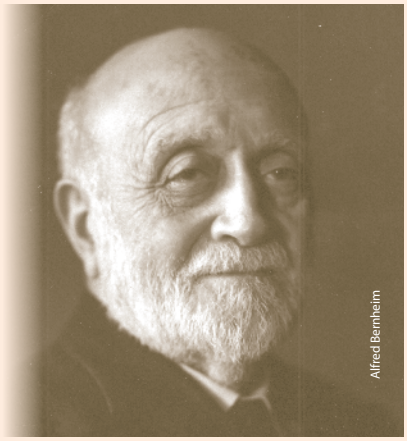
Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University opening ceremony, April 1925

The first female professor: Sophia Getzova

Russian-born Sophia Getzova was a pioneering pathologist who, despite outstanding academic credentials, was unable to obtain a permanent appointment in Europe due to her foreign origins and gender. In 1925, with a warm reference from Prof. Albert Einstein, she emigrated and was appointed head of the Institute of Pathological Anatomy at the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus. In 1927, as part of a cooperation agreement between the Hebrew University and Hadassah, Getzova was appointed a senior lecturer. She was named Professor Emeritus in 1940.

The first professor: Andor Fodor

Budapest-born Andor Fodor was a noted scientist in colloidal chemistry who was invited to establish the University's first institute, the Institute of Chemistry, by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the main progenitor of the University and himself a chemist. Fodor began his scientific work in 1924 in a single small laboratory that, within a few years, would develop into a five-department school. Fodor's research contributed to the country's initial industrial development, in particular in agriculture and mineral resources.



The first sabra: David Yellin

From 1925 until the end of the British Mandate in Palestine, David Yellin was the only native-born faculty member at the Hebrew University. A rare combination of scholar, educator and public figure, Yellin was prominent in the development of the teaching of Hebrew and the revival of spoken Hebrew in the pre-state Yishuv. Appointed to the Institute of Jewish Studies in 1926, he researched Hebrew and Arabic language, with a focus on Jewish liturgical poems in medieval Spain.

Based on biographies in 'Who's Who Prior to Statehood: Founders, Designers, Pioneers' by Dr. Assaf Seltzer, the fourth volume in The History of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem project headed by Prof. Hagit Lavsky (The Hebrew University Magnes Press, English edition forthcoming)

Learning is a Bond which Unites All Mankind

Lord Balfour, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University opening ceremony, April 1925

Nati Shohat/Flash90

Aviona Hakarmi-Weinberg: East Asian Studies & Business Administration

Jerusalemite AVIONA HAKARMI-WEINBERG, 24, has long been fascinated by China. She has worked — in China and Israel — with the Israel-Asia Center and the Shavei Israel-Kaifeng Jewish Center, and she teaches Chinese and Hebrew as a second language.

While majoring in East Asian studies was a given, "I also wanted something more practical," she says. Thus, Hakarmi-Weinberg is among the 15 students in the inaugural class of the University's dual undergraduate program in East Asian Studies and Business Administration. The curriculum combines studies of the cultural, political and linguistic background of East Asia with a comprehensive business education.

"The program really ties these two fields together: I get the academic aspect via East Asian studies and the practical from business administration," says Hakarmi-Weinberg. "My current internship with the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce allows me to apply my knowledge from both fields and will, I hope, lead to a career in Israel-Asia business relations."

Asaf Berman: Elite Military Medicine

Bruno Charbit

Rishon LeZion native ASAF BERMAN, 22, "knew from a young age" that he wanted to be a doctor. The former child actor is now a fourth-year student in the Elite Military Medicine Track, a joint program of the Faculty of Medicine, IDF and Ministry of Defense, which was launched in 2009 to alleviate Israel's acute shortage of military physicians.

Unusual for Israel, studies begin at age 18, with its 60-student annual intake undergoing six years of MD studies — including special courses such as aviation medicine, battlefield wounds and operational military medicine — as well as a one-year internship and five years' military service. "We live and eat together, spend our summers in basic training and we've become best friends," says Berman who helped treat wounded soldiers at Soroka Hospital's Trauma Unit during Operation Protective Edge in summer 2014. "Having been exposed to actual war injuries, I am keen to do my service with a combat unit."

Nati Shohat/Flash90

Ola Ibrahim: Arabic Teacher Training

OLA IBRAHIM, 22, from Abu Ghosh near Jerusalem, is in the final year of her undergraduate degree in Arabic literature and education. She is one of 12 students in the pioneering program — now in its third year — for training teachers of Arabic. Developed by the University's Department of Arabic Language and Literature and Department of Teacher Education in the School of Education, it seeks to enhance the status of Arabic teaching in Jewish schools in Israel.

The two-year program offers a comprehensive curriculum that equips the new teachers with the skills to teach not only Arabic language but Arab culture and society too. Graduates receive a teaching certificate and do their teaching practice at Jerusalem's prestigious Boyar High School. "The program has introduced me to areas I never thought about," says Ibrahim — "managing a classroom, developing educational materials, teacher-student and teacher-parent relations. I am so looking forward to teaching Arabic once I graduate."

Meet the next generation: six young scholars are participating in trailblazing programs at the Hebrew University

Dr. Mattan Hurevich: Teacher-Scholars

Miriam Alster/Flash90

DR. MATTAN HUREVICH, 39, is thrilled to be helping his hometown of Jerusalem while pursuing his research. A Hebrew University graduate in chemistry, Hurevich returned to Israel from a Minerva postdoctoral fellowship in Germany in 2014 and joined the Faculty of Science's new Teacher-Scholars program. The program is an out-of-the-box response, in large part to the decline in science and math standards in Israeli schools. The program's participants, seven to date, divide their time equally — as teachers in local schools and as research fellows in University labs. "Beyond teaching chemistry in Gilo and my research, I am influencing young people and exposing them to science," says Dr. Hurevich. "I would love to get involved in developing programs that boost interest in science and teaching, and in fostering non-academic frameworks that encourage science graduates to work in Jerusalem."

Tal Ulus: Advanced School for Environmental Studies

Nati Shohat/Flash90

TAL ULUS, 28, grew up on Kibbutz Tze'elim in the western Negev's delicate ecosystem. "My proximity to nature was the impetus for my undergraduate degree in geography and history. For my master's in geography, I am specializing in environmental policy. With its multidisciplinary approach, the new Advanced School for Environmental Studies gives me the broadest perspective and deepens my knowledge of management and policy."

A cross-faculty facility for graduate students that opened in 2014, the School's starting point is human-environmental relationships and the many disciplines they involve. Thus, students supplement their specific field of study with the School's core courses — in subjects such as the environmental sciences, economics of natural resources, environmental policy and environmental law — which are taught by faculty, current and former government officials, environmental activists and business leaders. Now completing her thesis on environmental history, Ulus hopes to continue onto doctoral studies or secure work in policy planning in the public or NGO sectors.

Barry Cheng: International MBA in Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Nati Shohat/Flash90

BARRY CHENG, 25, from Harbin in China, has taken a year's leave from his master's studies at Sun Yat-Sen University to do his MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. A joint program of the Rothberg International School and the Jerusalem School of Business Administration, the MBA opened this academic year and is taught in English. Its students acquire the tools for creating services and products suitable for global markets, are exposed to Israeli society and culture and also benefit from a supervised internship with a leading Israeli firm — in Cheng's case, SodaStream.

Cheng chose the Hebrew University because, he says, "it is consistently ranked among the top 100 universities in the world and is called the 'Harvard of the Middle East.' I also want to learn from a country which is no bigger than a city in China but is home to the world's second largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies."

Profiles by Gail Lichtman

True Wisdom is That Which Learns from All

Chaim Nachman Bialik, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University opening ceremony, April 1925

Research and teaching on social sciences subjects began within the Hebrew University's Faculty of Humanities in the 1930s, developing into departments such as sociology, economics and the Middle East. In the late 1940s, with the new state's urgent need for economists, sociologists, statisticians and administrators, the University undertook the education of these professional cadres while developing research and teaching in economics, social sciences and administration. Today's Faculty of Social Sciences, which became a separate school in 1953 and independent faculty in 1968, promotes vibrant intellectual interchange among its nine departments, its Federmann School of Public Policy and Government, and through its leading role in interdisciplinary teaching programs such as cognitive sciences, and philosophy, politics and economics.

Above: Prof. Martin Buber teaches a class in the University's temporary quarters in Terra Sancta College, 1949. Main: Doctoral candidate Noga Buber Ben-David in her great-great-uncle's original study at the Hebrew University, today preserved as an exhibit on the Mount Scopus campus

Professor Martin Buber

MARTIN Buber, who was one of the twentieth century's great Jewish intellectuals, believed that "Zionism offered the opportunity to combine universal and prophetic notions of social justice with commitment to all beings and their source, God" says Hebrew University political theorist Professor Dan Avnon. A Hebrew University founder and spiritual father, Buber considered the creation of an autonomous center for the renewal of cultural Judaism to be paramount to the Zionist enterprise. Already in 1902, with Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Dr. Berthold Feiwel, he penned 'Eine Jüdische Hochschule', a pamphlet calling for the establishment of a Jewish school of higher learning.

Even before emigrating from Germany and joining the Hebrew University in 1938, Buber sat on the new institution's standing committee and assisted in drawing up its academic programs; he was also involved in its Friends association in Berlin. Once in Jerusalem, he was appointed professor of social philosophy and not only laid the foundations for the University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, but also for the

much-needed fields of social sciences and adult education during Israel's early years.

Born in Vienna in 1878, Buber drifted away from traditional Judaism as a young man and was drawn to Christian mysticism and to secular philosophy, later returning to a spiritual form of Judaism. When the Nazis barred Jewish students from higher education, Buber helped establish Jewish adult education centers in Germany, an initiative he would rework in his new homeland. "In the Buberian sense, education doesn't end with a degree and a career. Continuing education satisfies an existential necessity, fulfilling a basic human need for renewal," says Avnon.

Buber is best known for *I and Thou,* in which he describes a sensation of being, of an "I" that is in dialogue and that can be present in all encounters — with nature, human beings, and "the eternal Thou" that is God. "Opposed to the religious establishment and decidedly pro-faith, Buber pioneered a revival of Judaism in the language and environment of the twentieth century," says Avnon. "For him, this revival began in social contexts — hence his hopes that the Jewish people would establish communities that exemplified the ethos of dialogue in their new homeland."

With his signature, almost rabbinic, bushy beard, Martin Buber frequently went against the grain of conformist thought. He advocated a binational state, was called a religious heretic by some, and too-devout-a-follower of Hasidism by others. But at the core of his thinking was the principle of dialogue — always aiming to bridge gaps between Jews and Arabs, Jews and Christians, and amongst Jews themselves.

Nati Shohat/Flash90

Based on the biography of Martin Buber in 'Who's Who Prior to Statehood: Founders, Designers, Pioneers' by Dr. Assaf Seltzer, the fourth volume in The History of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem project headed by Prof. Hagit Lavsky (The Hebrew University Magnes Press, English edition forthcoming)

Noga Buber Ben-David

ALTHOUGH his impact on her career choice was "on a subconscious level rather than a rational decision," Martin Buber's *I and Thou* seems to be Noga Buber Ben-David's touchstone. Indeed, the connection between this doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology — the very department that her social philosopher great-great-uncle founded at the Hebrew University — and her relative is difficult to dismiss.

Following her master's dissertation on Jerusalem's poverty-ridden and highly marginalized gypsy community, Buber Ben-David realized that social change was her academic — and personal — passion. For her doctorate, she is looking at social businesses, of which there are several dozen in Israel. "The social business phenomenon, where social agenda combines with revenue-seeking activity, has recently become a subject for academic research." The challenge for these enterprises, she says, is "to balance social-environmental goals with the ability to survive free market competition."

Unlike non-profits, which rely on charitable funding, social businesses aim at self-sustainability. "They try — and sometimes succeed — to integrate capitalist enterprise with social justice, thus creating a win-win situation," says Buber Ben-David. "Whether it's hiring the disabled and other marginalized members of society or improving the environment, everyone — including the economy — comes out ahead." From being a youth group leader to tutoring partially blind students at the University, Buber Ben-David has always been drawn to projects with a social agenda. Indeed, she is one of 36 handpicked doctoral students participating in the University's Harry and Sylvia Hoffman Leadership and Responsibility Program. In addition to the lectures, workshops and joint projects that hone their social and community leadership skills within "a place where doctoral colleagues become friends", the Hoffman fellows must contribute to society through volunteer projects. Buber Ben-David is involved in two: as a coordinator at a local community center and mentoring two mothers who are creating an after-school program for autistic children.

Intent on making the world a better place — and admitting that it may sound naïve — Noga Buber Ben-David is unflagging in her belief "in people, social change and the need for humans to connect with one another." Her great-great-uncle would be proud.

Profiles by Shelley Kleiman

The Dreams Have Already Begun to be Translated into Realities

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University opening ceremony, April 1925

When the Hebrew University opened in 1925, no one could have imagined that 90 years later it would comprise seven faculties and over 23,000 students. Vice-President and Director-General Billy Shapira reviews the University's development and describes the challenges involved in continuing its legacy of excellence.

Above: Mount Scopus in the 1930s. Below: Vice-President and Director-General Billy Shapira at the construction site of the Charles and Suzanne Goodman Brain Sciences Building, the new home for the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences on the Edmond J. Safra Campus

BEFORE looking ahead, says University Vice-President and Director General Billy Shapira, it is essential to "look and learn from the past."

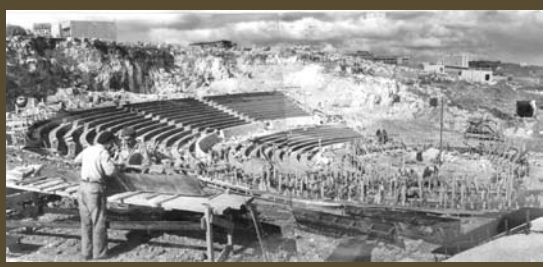
An integral part of the Zionist endeavor, the University's initial development was greatly determined by events in the pre-state Yishuv and during the early years of nation-building. In 1918, the Hebrew University's cornerstones were laid and on April 1, 1925, the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus Campus officially opened. Held in an area that is today's Rothberg Amphitheatre, the opening ceremony was an event of worldwide significance attended by some 10,000 people, says Shapira.

"The University started out with three research institutes, with the pace of building determined by donations and the academic development program," she says. "A faculty-based model was adopted within several years and several building plans were drawn up, none of which were fully realized — the cupola-topped National Library building, today the Faculty of Law, became the University's signature building."

In 1948, in the wake of the War of Independence, Mount Scopus became inaccessible and the University relocated to makeshift premises throughout Jerusalem. Even though in exile, it responded to the new state's urgent need for trained manpower: The faculties of Medicine and Law opened in 1949, and in 1952 the School of Agriculture in Rehovot gained faculty status and a second building was added to the once-modest experimental farm. By 1953, with the opening of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy, the current academic structure for the University's seven faculties was in place.

In 1956, the first buildings of the new campus in Givat Ram — later to become the Edmond J. Safra Campus — had opened; in 1958 the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work was established; and in 1960 the Ein Kerem medical campus was


Nati Shohat/Flash90



From top: Post-1967 reconstruction of the Mount Scopus campus; the Octav and Marcela Botnar Building for Medical Research, Ein Kerem; construction of the Mona Bronfman-Sheckman Amphitheatre at Givat Ram, 1957; Rothberg Family Buildings, Edmond J. Safra Campus; construction of second building for Rehovot campus, 1953

inaugurated. When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, the "government of Israel resolved that the University must return to Mount Scopus," says Shapira. The Faculty of Science remained at Givat Ram — today the Edmond J. Safra Campus — while law, humanities and social sciences returned to Mount Scopus, with its extensive reconstruction completed in 1982; the first new edifice to rise on Mount Scopus was the Davis Building, home of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

In the years that followed, the University further developed two small additional campuses: the Beit Dagan Veterinary Hospital near Rehovot and the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat.

The University's physical development, says Shapira, is dictated by its academic priorities. She points to progress in a number of areas. "Construction of the Charles and Suzanne Goodman Brain Sciences Building, the new home for the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC) on the Edmond J. Safra Campus, promises state-of-the-art labs for our world-leading research groups. This year's inauguration on Mount Scopus of the new home for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities opens up the campus' eastern flank and creates a vibrant meeting place for honors graduate students from around the world.

"In Rehovot our Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment has undergone significant upgrades based on 'green construction' principles. And in Ein Kerem, the Octav and Marcela Botnar Building for Medical Research has created cutting-edge facilities in the Faculty of Medicine."

Across the University "we are committed to recruiting bright talent, aiming at some 50 new faculty members each year," says Shapira, adding that the 2014 opening of the Rothberg Family Buildings — the imposing new home of the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering — has met the needs generated by the dramatic rise in both students and scholars in these fields.

"We realize that if we are to attract outstanding new faculty to our University then we must provide them with affordable living in Jerusalem. That, along with reassessing viable options for student accommodations, is also high on our agenda.

"Human capital — the best students, scholars, teachers and administrative staff — is the engine for the continued advancement of Israel."

From top: Ein Kerem medical campus under construction, 1957; the Rothberg Family Buildings on the Edmond J. Safra Campus include spacious student computer centers at the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering that are open round-the-clock; the Robert H. Smith Institute of Plant Sciences and Genetics in Agriculture, Rehovot; construction of the new building for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Mount Scopus

World of Friends

Dear Friends

The Hebrew University's supporters and Friends associations across the globe have been integral partners in its development since its very beginnings — indeed by 1938 the University already had support groups in over 25 countries, from Poland and Portugal to China and Egypt.

In the following pages, you will meet today's friends who — in their efforts to provide material support and increase awareness of the University — continue this 90-year tradition.

We are indebted to them for the volunteerism, longstanding generosity and unswerving advocacy of our mission that help ensure that the Hebrew University continues to thrive and to contribute to enhancing quality of life in Israel and around the world.

Prof. Aharon (Ronnie) Friedman
Vice-President for Advancement and External Relations

United States

Sir Martin Sorrell, founder and CEO of the world's leading communications services group WPP, was presented with the Scopus Award by the University's American Friends at a New York gala dinner whose proceeds went towards the University. From left: Sir Martin Sorrell, leading journalist and broadcast anchor Charlie Rose and dinner chair Ronald O. Perelman.

Hebrew University Governor Barry Lippman and Ronda Lippman (left) and University Guardians Bari and Steven Good (center) were presented with the Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award at the annual Bel Air Affaire scholarship fundraiser in Los Angeles. The glittering event was supported for the seventh consecutive year by University Benefactor, Honorary Fellow and Associate Governor and American Friends' National and Western Region board member Brindell Gottlieb (right).

Renowned attorney and author Scott F. Turow was conferred the inaugural Jerold S. Solovy (z"l) Torch of Learning Award by the University's American Friends in Chicago. Kathleen Solovy accepted the Judah Magnes Award on behalf of her late husband Jerold, who was Chairman Emeritus of Jenner & Block LLP, a preeminent US appellate and trial lawyer and a member of the Truman Research Institute board and the American Friends' Board of Regents. Dinner proceeds benefited University law students. From left: Faculty Dean Prof. Yuval Shany, American Friends' Midwest Region President Robert Wertheimer, Scott Turow and Kathleen Solovy.

The American Friends' Torch of Learning Award dinner in Fort Lauderdale paid tribute to Alan B. Cohn, attorney and shareholder at Greenspoon Marder Law, with proceeds going towards University research in pediatric cancer. From left: American Friends' Southeast Region President Mitchell L. Shadowitz, honoree Alan B. Cohn and Friends' Southeast Region past president Sheldon Hechtman.

The American Friends' Annual Leadership Education Forum in Palm Beach showcased recent University achievements and innovations, with University faculty and other experts discussing Middle East affairs, national security and medical breakthroughs. From right: University Vice-President for Advancement and External Relations Prof. Ronnie Friedman, Ambassador Martin Indyk and Ambassador Stuart Bernstein.

William J. Kilberg (center), the most senior partner in the Labor and Employment Law Practice Group at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, was presented with the Torch of Learning Award by Ted Olson (left) and Fred Malek (right) at a well-attended American Friends' dinner in Washington, DC that raised funds for the Aharon Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Research at the University's Faculty of Law.

United Kingdom

The British friends' ninth Living Legacy Mission included a week-long, in-depth visit of the Hebrew University and a plaque dedication ceremony at the University's Mount Scopus campus.

Israel

Author and poet Lea Aini was awarded the I. and B. Neuman Prize for Hebrew Literature at an Israel Friends' ceremony held on the Mount Scopus campus. From left: University President Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson, honoree Lea Aini, University Rector Prof. Asher Cohen and the I. and B. Neuman Foundation's Israel representative Avishai Lubic.

University Governor and Honorary Doctorate recipient Daniel Jacobson was feted by the Univeristy on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday at a special party organized by the University's Israel Friends; University President Prof. Menhem Ben-Sasson presented him with a photo album documenting his longstanding support of the University.

Canada

The Canadian Friends' Ottawa Chapter and JNF partnered to honor Dorothy Nadolny for her endeavors of over 50 years on behalf of Israeli causes and medical institutions. Proceeds went towards the Herbert and Dorothy Nadolny Cardio-Metabolic Disease Research Hub at the University's Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC), and to the creation of safe spaces in the Negev town of Ofakim. From left: Dinner Chair and University Honorary Fellow Stephen Victor, Canadian Friends' President and CEO Rami Kleinmann, Ottawa Chapter President Susan Katz, Ottawa Chapter Executive Director Shelli Kimmel, honoree Dorothy Nadolny, Canadian Friends' National Chair Murray Palay and University Vice-President for Research and Development Prof. Isaiah Arkin.

The Canadian Friends in Vancouver partnered with the 2014 JNF Gala Dinner to celebrate the humanitarian work of Gary Segal, a Hebrew University alumnus and Vice-President of Kingswood Capital Corp; event proceeds went towards ecological and sustainable scientific activities and youth leadership training programs under the auspices of the University's Authority for Community and Youth. From left: Canadian Friends' President and CEO Rami Kleinmann, Friends' National Chair Murray Palay, Gary and Nanci Segal, Vancouver Friends' President Randy Milner and Director of the University's Division for Advancement and External Relations Ram Semo.

The Canadian Friends' Winnipeg chapter presented community leader Moe Levy with the 2014 Scopus Award at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Levy, a key figure in the establishment of the museum, was recognized for his ongoing support for the Hebrew University and Israel through government and entrepreneurial work; proceeds from the event went towards infrastructure and other priorities at IMRIC. From left: Canadian Friends' National Chair Murray Palay, University President Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson and Scopus honoree Moe Levy.

Europe

Photos: L'Osservatore Romano Photographic Service

Photos: L'Osservatore Romano Photographic Service

Some 50 members of the University's European Friends were part of a Hebrew University delegation, headed by University President Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson and Board of Governors Chairman Michael Federmann, that held a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Delegation members included French Friends President Martine Dassault and her husband Laurent Dassault, Swiss Friends President Gultin Ephrati, and Brain Circle UK Co-Chair Muriel Salem and her husband Freddy Salem. At the papal audience, Prof. Ben-Sasson presented Pope Francis with the *Keter Yerushalayim*, a special Hebrew University edition of the Hebrew Bible.

Punta del Este

University Benefactor and Honorary Doctorate recipient James Shasha graciously hosted the main lecture and reception of the twenty-seventh annual Punta del Este symposium of the University's Argentinean and Uruguayan Friends in the Grand Hotel. From left: University Vice-President for Advancement and External Relations Prof. Ronnie Friedman, outgoing director of the Latin American, Spain and Portugal Department of the Division Dr. Pablo Kizelsztein, James Shasha and Ambassador Emilio Cárdenas.

Australia

Over 200 guests met Grahame Leonard AM, the new President of the University's Australian Friends in Victoria, at an event which included talks by University Vice-President for Advancement and External Relations Prof. Ronnie Friedman, who spoke on agriculture as a bridge to peace, and by Prof. Greg Barton who spoke on the rise of the Islamic State and its implications. From left: Australian Friends' Federal President and University Honorary Fellow Robert Simons OAM, Victoria Friends' President Grahame Leonard AM, Prof. Friedman, Prof. Barton, Friends' Patron Lady Anna Cowen and Victoria Friends' Executive Director Eitan Drori.

Belgium

The Belgian Friends' Scopus Award Gala honoring director, writer and producer brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, two-time winners of the prestigious Palme d'Or, was attended by over 300 people. From left: honorees Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, actress Deborah François, actor Jérémie Renier, Belgian Friends' President Antoinette Grosman, Televie founder Jean-Charles De Keyser, Scopus Award laureates Baron Jacques Brotchi and Radu Mihaileanu, University Vice-President for Research and Development Prof. Isaiah Arkin and singer Lio.

Germany

Leading entrepreneur Michael Bob's Berlin home was overflowing at a fundraiser on behalf of the Max Planck-Hebrew University Center for Sensory Processing of the Brain in Action, a partnership of the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology and the University's Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences. The evening's patrons were Israel's ambassador to Germany Yakov Hadas-Handelsman and his wife Ita; special guests included actress and Scopus Award laureate Iris Berben, Max Planck-Hebrew University Center Director Prof. Idan Segev and Director for Europe of the University's Division for Advancement and External Relations Tali Dowek. From right: Michael Bob, Wilhelm von Haller, Jana Bob, Dorit Brandwein-Stürmer, Henner Ehringhaus, Prof. Segev (foreground), Iris Berben, Amb. Hadas-Handelsman and Maya Zehden.

France

Some 500 people attended a gala event in Paris's Maison de la Mutualité, at which Patrick Drahi was presented with the French Friends' Scopus Award. Proceeds from the evening went towards the computation, communication and multimedia systems in the new Charles and Suzanne Goodman Brain Sciences Building of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences. From left: Scopus Award laureates and University Honorary Doctorate recipients Baron Eric de Rothschild and Lily Safra, Scopus Award laureate Beate Klarsfeld, honoree Patrick Drahi, French Friends' President Martine Dassault, Scopus Award laureate Philippe Labro, Scopus Award laureate and University Honorary Doctorate recipient Bernard-Henri Lévy, Scopus Award laureate Maurice Lévy, and University President Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson.

Save the Date

Listing of upcoming Friends events, page 33

Illustrious Service to Science & Scholarship

British High Commissioner Sir Herbert Samuel
Mount Scopus, Hebrew University opening ceremony, 1 April 1925

Almost from the moment that the foundation stone for the Einstein Institute of Mathematics was laid during the 1925 opening celebrations, the Hebrew University has been known for the exceptional standards of its mathematicians. Indeed, this tradition of discovery (in areas such as set theory, model theory, algebra and dynamics) and excellence (one Fields Medal, one Nobel Prize, one Turing Award to date) has been eagerly adopted by the associated fields of computer science and engineering which, with mathematics, are part of the Faculty of Science. The scholars and graduates of today's Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering are among Israel's high-tech leaders and make a significant contribution to the country's economic vitality.

Above: The Einstein Institute of Mathematics, Mount Scopus, 1923; identified by the Pythagoreon Theorem etched in stone above its entrance, the historic building is today the David and Fela Shapell Family Building and houses part of the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry. Main: Prof. Michael Rabin (left) and Dr. Amit Zoran; Inset: Mathematics lecture at the Einstein Institute of Mathematics, 1947

Natl Shohat/Flash90

Professor Michael Rabin

FROM student to professor to rector, Professor Michael Rabin's association with the Hebrew University spans over six decades. While his vision and influence were pivotal in shaping not only the Hebrew University but many of Israel's other institutions of higher education, his influence extends far beyond national borders. Rabin is internationally renowned for his accomplishments in developing the mathematical underpinnings of a subject now known as "computer science". Indeed, hundreds of millions of our daily computer transactions depend on the cryptographic tools which he established over 40 years ago. This pioneering research goes hand-in-hand with an uncompromising devotion to teaching, as evidenced by the numerous "Rabin graduates" within prestigious departments of mathematics and computer science, and in industry.

Michael Rabin's mathematical talent was clear when, as a 12-year-old in Haifa, he was goaded by older schoolboys

to complete a Euclidean geometry proof that mystified them. Despite no formal mathematical training — and much to their astonishment — he solved it. This encounter kindled his interest in mathematics. Upon graduating from high school at 16, Michael Rabin was drafted to fight in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Even as a soldier, he recalls, he continued to study advanced mathematics textbooks. His obvious prowess in mathematics brought him an early discharge, and enrollment at the Hebrew University.

Nati Shohat/Flash90

In those years the University was cut off from its original Mount Scopus campus and was encamped throughout central Jerusalem. Mathematics was in the ornate Franciscan Terra Sancta College and physics in buildings in Mamilla, the neighborhood flanking the Old City walls. Within three years Rabin had gained his master's degree. He did his doctorate at Princeton, staying on for a period to teach mathematics and as a member of its Institute for Advanced Study.

Back in Israel, Rabin became head of the University's Einstein Institute of Mathematics at age 33 and a full professor at 34. Within a few years, he set up the Department of Computer Science with Prof. Eli Shamir; the Department would later become the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering. In 1972, Rabin was elected rector, and played a key role in restoring the University to full function following the agonies of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He was also instrumental in establishing the University's Israel Institute of Advanced Studies which hosts world-leading scholars as visiting fellows.

Alongside his considerable administrative duties, Rabin continued to make major contributions in the mathematics of computing, winning every major prize in the field — notably the Turing Award (the "Nobel" in computing science). "Administration made me a better mathematician — it gave me a better understanding of the real world," he says. This awareness also led him to champion Hebrew University initiatives of national significance such as the development of academic degree programs in nursing and within teacher training colleges.

Now emeritus, Michael Rabin was named the Hebrew University's Albert Einstein Professor of Mathematics in 1981 and, through a unique arrangement, also held a professorship at Harvard. Always at the cutting edge of his field, in recent years he has published important work on Internet piracy, and on anonymity and security in online auctions. Whether at the Hebrew University or Harvard, Michael Rabin's profound scientific insights and sharp wit continue to inform and entertain new generations of computer scientists.

Dr. Amit Zoran

JUST a few doors from Prof. Michael Rabin's office is that of Dr. Amit Zoran, who joined the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering in 2014 and heads the School's new Design, Fabrication and Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory.

While Zoran's lab is still being assembled, a visitor's eye is quickly drawn to the apparently bizarre collection of objects in his office. They have a somewhat surreal quality to them — aesthetically compelling and recognizable, yet unsettlingly novel in their form: a guitar that closely resembles the conventional instrument but is two-dimensional with a replaceable wooden resonator and simulated acoustic chamber; a broken ceramic vase fused with a black 3D-printed nylon mesh; a basket, hand-woven on an intricate and complex digitally designed plastic frame. Each represents a different aspect of Zoran's work; together these hybrid pieces help reveal the underlying philosophy of his work.

In an era where technology is rapidly replacing human activities with robots, Zoran challenges us "to look at a wider creative spectrum where we can merge digital, electronic expertise with human skills and cultural heritage." Digitization should be used to aid — not replace — humans. For example, digitized knives with feedback sensors could prevent a chef from slicing off a finger. "The cutting process remains in human hands but the knife becomes a smart tool with modern computerization," he says.

Top: Prof. Samuel Sambursky and Dr. Meiboom unpack one of the 19 cases of equipment presented to the Department of Physics by the British government in 1946 in thanks for the University's wartime aid. Below: The University's first photograph, taken in 1924, shows Dr. Chaim Weizmann with the first director of the Institute of Chemistry Prof. Andor Fodor, students and staff

Zoran is also interested in hybrid designs that meld traditional crafts and digital input: new art is created but in its individuality — or lack of perfection and uniqueness — it references a cultural heritage embedded in craft skills. His concern to preserve rapidly disappearing crafts has taken Zoran to the Kalahari Desert several times to study hunter-gatherers employing the 50,000-year-old craft of making beads from ostrich eggshells. Besides their ethnographic interest, these expeditions "allow me to explore the integration of digitized tools in craft and open up new avenues for technology design," he says. "They also highlight the value of designing digital tools that encourage working collectively rather than individually."

With a first degree in computer engineering, subsequent degrees in industrial design, six years in hi-tech, and seven years in the MIT Media Lab, Zoran describes himself as "a designer at heart, and an engineer in skills". The Benin School is "a great place to be; my colleagues are open to new ideas and I can continue my connection with the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, which is also in Jerusalem," says Zoran.

In the world of human-computer interaction, Zoran wants to ensure that the human role is not neglected: "Through my work, I want my fellow engineers to understand our responsibility to society: to maintain the values of our cultural heritage as we merge them with modern technology."

Profiles by Susan Goodman

Road Sense

THE technology for road safety company Mobileye, the world leader in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, is based on pioneering research by Amnon Shashua, the Sachs Family Professor of Computer Sciences and a former head of the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering. Shashua is an expert on getting computers to comprehend 3D images — and a serial entrepreneur — who, over the years, has developed technologies that he then turned over to friends to set up as businesses.

In 1999, Prof. Shashua co-founded Mobileye with businessman Ziv Aviram. Their self-set challenge: to produce a vision system capable of detecting all nearby vehicles using only one camera. The Mobileye team first created a series of mathematical algorithms for recognizing potential dangers on the road and then harnessed them to develop a pioneering processor chip called the EyeQ, the main component of their collision protection technology. Shashua's patented Mobileye technology was subsequently commercialized by Yissum, the University's technology transfer company.

After years of development, in 2007 Mobileye began to sell the chip and software to leading automotive manufacturers.

Nati Shohat/Flash90

In August 2014, Mobileye raised nearly a billion dollars on the New York Stock Exchange, becoming the largest-ever Israeli IPO in the US. Today, with a workforce of 600 in offices in Jerusalem, Tokyo, Detroit and Long Island, its system is available in 160 car models produced by 18 manufacturers. By the end of 2016, the system will be available in 237 car models produced by 20 manufacturers and by 2021, its solutions will become the standard in almost every vehicle as the primary safety equipment. "This will dramatically reduce the number of fatalities in car accidents," says Shashua. "Mobileye could become the worldwide number one factor in saving lives."

The Dead Sea Scrolls Saga

ALMOST 70 years ago, the Hebrew University embarked on a journey that would mark one of the most significant historical discoveries of our times. In 1947, Institute of Archaeology founder Professor Eleazar Sukenik purchased for the University three ancient Hebrew texts from an antiquities dealer in Bethlehem. Discovered by a Bedouin shepherd in a cave in the Judean desert, the parchments were three of what would soon be considered the supreme manuscript find of modern times — the most important biblical and Second Temple texts ever discovered: the Dead Sea Scrolls.

With the exception of these three scrolls — and four more later purchased by Sukenik's archaeologist son Yigael Yadin — Israeli scholars had little access for years to the many other scrolls and fragments discovered in the Qumran area, then under Jordanian rule.


Bieberkraut


Dunn-et

Following the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel's Department of Antiquities assumed control of almost all the Dead Sea Scrolls. Progress on publication remained slow until 1990 when the University's Professor Emanuel Tov was appointed editor-in-chief. Tov assembled an international team of some 100 editors from 11 countries and relocated the project's headquarters to Mount Scopus.

In 2010, the last of the 40 large-sized critical editions of the Dead Sea Scrolls — all in all 1,500 scrolls from the Dead Sea area, including 940 from the 11 caves at Qumran — was published by Oxford University Press.

Today, scrolls-related activities — its scholars come from several University departments — are centralized in the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, which is funded by the Orion Foundation and this year marks the twentieth anniversary of its 1995 founding. "We aim to foster research on the Scrolls and, in particular, to integrate the new information with our other data for Jewish history and religion in the Second Temple period," says Orion Director Dr. Esther Chazon. "This new knowledge impacts and enriches research in many areas, including bible studies, Second Temple Period Jewish literature and thought, early Christianity and the New Testament, and rabbinic Judaism."

From top: Cave at Qumran; Prof. Eleazar Sukenik examines one of the three scrolls he acquired for the Hebrew University, 1948; Prof. Yigael Yadin, Sukenik's son, observes colleague Prof. James Bieberkraut as he inspects a Dead Sea Scroll, 1954; portion from the 'The Scroll of the War of the Children of Light Against the Children of Darkness'

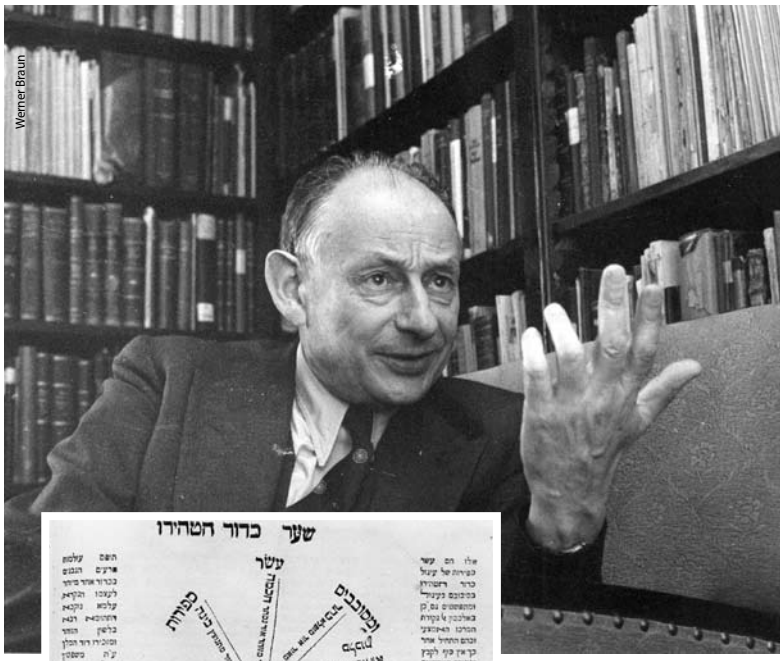

Bieberkraut

An Enriched and Enlarged Judaism, an Enriched and Enlarged Humanity

Judah Magnes, opening of the Institute of Jewish Studies
Mount Scopus, December 1924

Humanities studies have been a fundamental pillar of the Hebrew University since its inception. Its first five institutes included the Institute of Jewish Studies and the Institute of Oriental Studies, both of which pioneered pathbreaking research and teaching approaches. Activities in archaeology began in 1925 and by 1935, the Faculty of Humanities included philosophy, history and classical and modern languages. The spirit of innovation continues today with projects such as the development of new curricula, the University-wide Cornerstones Program in the humanities and liberal arts and, most notably, the new Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, which is Israel's first graduate school in the humanities.

Above: The 'Concordance' room at the Institute of Oriental Studies, 1926. Main: Prof. Gershom Scholem and Dr. Leore Grosman. Inset: Diagram of hitnozezut of the sefirot, from Napthali Bacharach's work on Lurianic Kabbalah 'Emek Ha-Melekh', Amsterdam, 1648



Werner Braun

Manuscripts Department, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Professor Gershom Scholem

AS the person who almost singlehandedly placed the study of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism on the academic map, it seems fitting that Gershom Scholem was a man of mythic proportions.

Born in Berlin in 1897 to an assimilated Jewish family, Scholem adopted a strong Jewish-Zionist identity during his youth and moved to Jerusalem in 1923. He initially worked cataloging the National and University Library's Judaica collection but, within two years, was appointed part-time lecturer in Kabbalah at the University's Institute of Jewish Studies. Despite his relative youth, Scholem was regarded as a founding father of the Institute — and, indeed, went on to transform a supposedly esoteric field unworthy of scholarly attention into a cornerstone of Jewish studies.

Exacting in his own work and his expectations of others, Scholem brought together exceptional analytical powers, textual knowledge and bibliographic skills to create a philological approach in which adherence to textual accuracy and detail were paramount. "It was his life's mission to turn the study of Kabbalah into a scientific enterprise," says Jonathan Garb, the Gershom Scholem Professor of Kabbalah in the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies. "He succeeded beyond his wildest dreams." His *Major*

Trends in Jewish Mysticism remains a standard textbook.

Scholem's preoccupation with bibliography is legendary. He regarded book collecting as a Zionist endeavor, arriving in Jerusalem with a collection of 2,000 volumes and becoming a key figure in the National and University Library. Scholem returned to Europe to salvage the remains of Judaica collections following the Second World War; helped develop the library's Hebrew manuscript collection and Hebrew bibliography; and on his death in 1982 left it his personal collection of over 25,000 volumes.


Nati Shohat/Flash90

Not content to sit in an ivory tower, Scholem — known for his liberal politics and support for a binational state — engaged in the public and literary discourse of his day. It was precisely because he was schooled in the history of messianism that he feared — "prophetically so," says Prof. Garb — its affects on politics and popular culture.

Having trained cadres of scholars — the fourth generation is now coming into its own — Garb says the field has proliferated to such an extent that Scholem himself would hardly recognize it. And even while recent scholarship is revising some of his views, "Scholem left a huge heritage, establishing the basic critical questions that still guide us today," says Garb. "He is one of the few twentieth-century humanities scholars whose work has withstood the test of time; that is a distinction few can claim."

Based on the biography of Gershom Scholem in 'Who's Who Prior to Statehood: Founders, Designers, Pioneers' by Dr. Assaf Seltzer, the fourth volume in The History of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem project headed by Prof. Hagit Lavsky (The Hebrew University Magnes Press, English edition forthcoming)

Dr. Leore Grosman

ARCHAEOLOGIST Leore Grosman is as comfortable formulating algorithms as getting her hands dirty at a dig. A recently appointed senior lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, Grosman is a prehistory archeologist who studies the history of humankind and also heads the Institute's pioneering Computerized Archaeology Laboratory.

Grosman's research focus is the transition from "hunter-gatherer mode to farming, a shift that permanently changed human life. Our excavations of the Natufians — the regional culture at the threshold of the agricultural revolution — show a society on the cusp of major cultural and subsistence change." The leap from prehistory to 3D lab is a natural progression for Grosman. Archaeological research, she says, traditionally harnesses methods and techniques from the natural sciences: zoology, botany, geology and chemistry. And for Grosman, who studied mathematics before switching to archeology, this interdisciplinary approach is ideal, with the Hebrew University and its diverse departments offering her unparalleled access to a broad range of specialists.

"Prehistory is a puzzle with many missing pieces," she says. "In order to reach a scholarly conclusion, even a tentative one, scientific evidence is essential. We surround ourselves with scientists at a dig — they help us understand the site's story."

The Computerized Archaeology Laboratory that Grosman heads represents the next step in this scientific alliance by applying tools from mathematics and computer science to further elucidating our prehistoric and ancient past. The lab was the first of its kind the world over and grew out of Grosman's postdoctoral research, together with doctoral colleague Avshalom Karasik, under the supervision of Professor Uzy Smilansky at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Situated in a space piled high with tools going back hundreds of thousands of years and "modern" pottery vessels a mere 3,000 years old, the lab comprises optical scanners that generate 3D high-resolution digital models that are then analyzed using tailor-made computer programs created by Grosman and her team. "We have developed precise algorithms and efficient methods for the documentation and measurement of artifacts," says Grosman. To date, these have been applied to over 45,000 artifacts, including pottery fragments and stone tools from over 100 expeditions.

The lab also provides a state-of-the art system for data storage and conservation, she says: "Once an object is excavated, it can easily deteriorate — our lab 'preserves' the artifacts, albeit digitally." But it is the 3D lab's research potential that most excites Grosman. "We have shown the huge benefits, both practical and theoretical, of the computerized approach to archaeological research," she says. "Returning to the traditional methods of studying the past would be absurd."

Profiles by Shelley Kleiman

Healer of Wounds, Redeemer of Evils

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University foundation stones-laying ceremony, July 1918

The 1924 endowment of the Institute of Microbiology by the American Jewish Physicians Committee created an academic infrastructure in the life, natural and biomedical sciences that, over the next 30 years, led to the establishment of the faculties of Medicine, Science, Dental Medicine and Agriculture. Founded at the Faculty of Medicine in 1953, the School of Pharmacy fulfills two primary roles: training pharmacists at practitioner and advanced levels, and conducting basic research in the pharmaceutical and life sciences. The School's researchers are among the world's leading developers of novel drug therapies and delivery systems.

Above: In 1925, the University's Prof. Israel Kligler set up a malaria research station in Rosh Pina in the Galilee. Main: Professor Marta Weinstock-Rosin (left) and Dr. Ofra Benny. Inset: The first class of students, most of them still serving in the Israel Defense Forces, at the opening of the Hebrew University - Hadassah Medical School, 1949

Professor Marta Weinstock-Rosin

THE day begins early for octogenarian — and blockbuster Alzheimer's drug Exelon inventor — Professor Marta Weinstock-Rosin. By 7:45 she is in her lab at the School of Pharmacy's Institute for Drug Research and at the end of the working day, "I'm the one who turns out the lights." Nowadays, half her week is devoted to lab research, the rest to writing scientific papers.

Exelon is a win-win. It provides effective treatment for mild to moderate dementia in patients with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases. And its market success — annual sales of $1 billion — provides the wherewithal for Weinstock-Rosin's to further harness her indefatigable energy and enthusiasm. The Exelon royalties which accrue to the Hebrew University, along with her research funds, are channeled by Weinstock-Rosin to many good causes, especially support for young research scientists. The bulk, though, goes toward the development of ladostigil, a new drug which has already shown positive interim results in a multi-center clinical trial slated for

completion in 2016. Designed to control the mild cognitive impairment that often precedes dementia and Alzheimer's, "ladostigil's success in animal models, and the absence of side effects, have given us much confidence," says Weinstock-Rosin.

Another prime interest — stimulated by psychiatrist Dr. Alexander Maier's studies of children born to women who were pregnant during the 1967 Six Day War — is how pre-natal stress affects behavioral development. With over 40 published papers on the subject, Weinstock-Rosin has shown that stress during pregnancy can impair the ability


Nati Shohat/Flash90

of offspring to cope under stressful conditions — "a low frustration threshold" — and can also predispose to attention and learning deficits, anxiety and depression. "We have shown that these behavioral changes also involve structural and neurochemical changes, meaning that we have a solid basis for developing optimal treatments," says Weinstock-Rosin. "Prevention, though, is always preferable."

Weinstock-Rosin, who immigrated to Israel from England in 1969, looks back on her years in Israel as extraordinarily successful in personal terms (20 grandchildren) "and scientifically" — in recognition of her achievements, she was awarded the Israel Prize in 2014 and was one of the 12 Israelis, chosen for their outstanding contributions to the country, to light torches at the opening ceremony of this year's Independence Day celebrations.

But her focus is firmly on the future. And if ladostigil fulfills its initial promise, she says, "I will definitely take it for its protective action." As for warding off dementia? "Eat healthily, take moderate exercise and keep your brain active" Definitely advice to follow.

Dr. Ofra Benny

DR. Ofra Benny is delighted to be "back home". After seven exhilarating years at Harvard Medical School, first as a postdoctoral fellow and then as an instructor in vascular biology, she returned to Israel in 2013. Today she heads a team in a refitted, state-of-the-art unit — the Lab of Nanomedicine and Tumor Environment — in the Institute for Drug Research (IDR) in the Faculty of Medicine's School of Pharmacy. In her groundbreaking research, she combines her diverse expertise in drug delivery and bioengineering with her in-depth knowledge of blood-vessel formation and cancer.

After completing her degree studies in biotechnology engineering at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Benny joined a team at Harvard Medical School – Boston Children's Hospital for her postdoctorate. She worked under world-renowned medical scientist the late Professor Judah Folkman who pioneered the field of angiogenesis, which elucidates the development of new blood vessels. Angiogenesis is the basis for novel therapies that aim to isolate malfunctioning cells from their blood supply and, in effect, starve them — and, for example, any tumors they may generate — to death. "My challenge," says Benny "is to develop further novel drugs that block the formation of new blood vessels that can cause life-threatening diseases and are delivered to the precise locations where they can be most effective."

In addition to using these biomedical methods for cancer, Dr. Benny and her team are working on the development of a new blood vessel-blocking therapy for the widely prevalent Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), which affects around two million people in the US alone and is characterized by the rapid production of blood vessels in the back of the eye — which can swiftly result in total blindness. Her preliminary work has already demonstrated "proof of concept" for a novel drug combination in the form of minute nanoparticles. She and her team are now pursuing the next stages of development.

Benny fully appreciates the support she received from the University in setting up her lab — "not just financial" she says. "Everyone has been so welcoming. It is part of the Israeli informality; you can approach anyone for help. The unique atmosphere of cooperation is probably one of the main reasons that, despite the shortage of resources, Israeli science has proven so successful."

Profiles by Susan Goodman

The Practical Application of Theoretical Knowledge to the Needs of Humankind

Lord Balfour, Mount Scopus
Hebrew University opening ceremony, April 1925

With initial funding from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare opened in 1958 and established Israel's first undergraduate program in social work. It inaugurated the first MSW program in 1970 and went on to develop the Schwartz programs in early childhood development and non-profit and community center administration management, and a popular doctoral program. Baerwald School faculty are today engaged in professional training and cutting-edge research, in formulating social policy and in providing professional leadership in the fields of social work, civil society and early childhood. Student programs include inter-faculty undergraduate programs and unique graduate specializations in areas such as trauma, psychiatric rehabilitation and infant mental health

Above: A University student volunteer teaches unschooled children in Jerusalem's Old City, 1945. Main: Dr. Yochay Nadan (left) and Prof. Jona Rosenfeld. Inset: Prof. Hans Jacob Polotsky checks water ration coupons in 1948; in the years leading to the establishment of the State of Israel, University faculty not in uniform helped fulfill essential civilian duties

Professor Jona Rosenfeld

ONE of his earliest memories is of his parents returning home to Germany from the 1925 opening of the Hebrew University and bringing him, then age three, a blue and white chemise. His family was staunchly Zionist, says Professor Jona Rosenfeld. His father had been an usher at the 1905 Zionist Congress and "apart from the tailor, everyone entering our home was a Zionist."

The family immigrated to Palestine in 1933 and Rosenfeld began his academic career studying "colonial social sciences" at the LSE in postwar Britain. He returned to Israel to take part in the 1948 War of Independence, becoming a mental health officer in the IDF. Many of his soldier-patients were Holocaust survivors who were rarely understood by the Israeli establishment.

"My first innovation as a social worker," says Prof. Rosenfeld "was when I told the Ministry of Defense: 'Whenever a Holocaust survivor comes to you, first ask them to tell you their story.' That changed everything." With his LSE education and a Hebrew University degree in sociology and education, Rosenfeld went on to do his doctorate at the University of Chicago. He was the second full professor at the Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare — and his legacy is the generations of professionals in practice, policy and academia who have contributed to the many spheres of social welfare in Israel.

A spritely activist whose pioneering achievements earned him the first Israel Prize for research in social work, one of Rosenfeld's longtime concerns is the poor. Poverty and genocide, he says, are "manmade evils that can be addressed by dedicated humans." Describing Israel's poverty rates as "scandalous", Rosenfeld founded the Forum for the Struggle Against Poverty, introduced World Day for the Eradication of Poverty into Israel's Knesset in 2009 and sat on the state's Alaluf War on Poverty Committee (2013/14). "At the first committee meeting all 40 participants were experts. 'We can't talk about poverty without bringing poor people to the committee,' I told them. They disagreed. When we did bring in those living in poverty, even some of the economists thought that it revolutionized the process.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"I like to think that my contribution is to know, include and listen to the people we work with."

Dr. Yochay Nadan

WHEN delivering their services to individuals or communities, social workers must be attentive to the social, cultural and political contexts that shape their clients' experiences, says Dr. Yochay Nadan. A new recruit at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare who specializes in multiculturalism, Nadan joined the Hebrew University following a postdoctoral fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He already feels the benefits of his new position: "I am surrounded by the country's leading scholars in social work and being in Jerusalem exposes me to the full range of Israel's communities."

"My area is the interface between social work and cultural context," says Nadan who focuses in his research on Israel's diverse communities — Ethiopian, haredi (ultra-Orthodox), Bedouin and asylum seekers. Nadan seeks to challenge his profession's cultural biases and, at the same time, learn from its clients: "Since social work is a Western — rather than generic — concept, our theories and practices might suit a relatively small section of the population. We have to learn from the people we work with in order to broaden our understanding and develop more culturally appropriate interventions."

In one ongoing study, Nadan is examining child neglect and maltreatment within the haredi community. In order to develop effective intervention programs, a team of researchers — that includes haredi graduate students in social work — is studying the community's own concepts of child safety and risk. The study reflects Nadan's underlying goal: to develop training programs for professionals that will equip them to serve diverse communities more effectively.

In example, he points to his involvement in a Ministry of Welfare-appointed committee that is developing "cultural competence" standards for welfare agencies. One obvious way to make a service more culturally competent, he says, is to deliver it in different languages, thus overcoming access barriers for many of the populations it serves.

Nadan would like to see the knowledge gained by his profession used to create and enhance a more inclusive social policy that fosters social welfare and equality for minority groups. Meanwhile, he sees it as his duty to translate such knowledge into action: "It would be unethical to confine our knowledge to academia — it must be translated into social work practice and professional training."

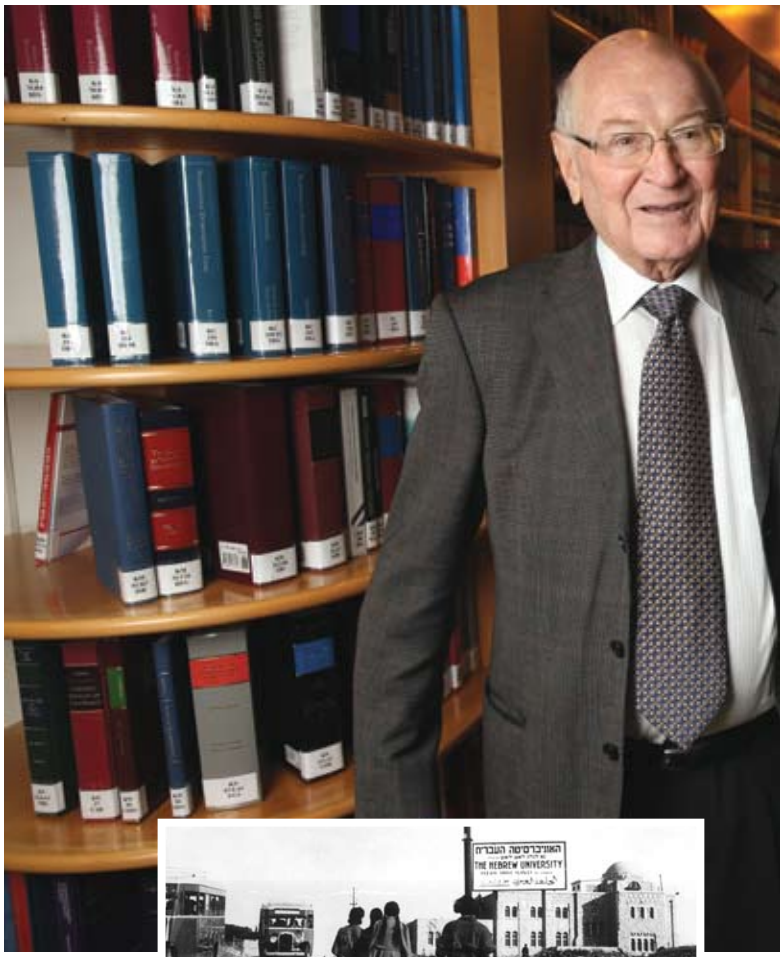
Profiles by Shoshana London Sappir

A Notable Contribution toward the Advancement of Human Knowledge

University President Prof. Selig Brodetsky, Jerusalem
Faculty of Law inauguration, November 1949

While the Hebrew University did not start training jurists until the establishment of the Faculty of Law in 1949, Hebrew law was taught from 1925 and international law from 1932. Most of the leadership of Israel's legal system, including past and current Supreme Court justices, graduated from or were teachers of the Faculty of Law, and many Israel Prize laureates in law and criminology are University graduates. Today's Faculty of Law continues as Israel's flagship of legal research and education. Its faculty and students come from highly diverse backgrounds, with its scholars earning worldwide recognition for their research and the students in its highly selective programs securing the most prestigious clerkships.

Above: Prof. Gad Tedeschi, fired from his position at the University of Siena in 1938 due to the Race Laws and a central figure in the Hebrew University's Faculty of Law and law in Israel following the State's establishment, lectures in civil law, 1952. Main: Prof. Itzhak Zamir and Dr. Keren Weinshall-Margel. Inset: Students travelled to and from the Mount Scopus campus by bus or made the long trek on foot, 1940



Professor Itzhak Zamir

WHEN retired Supreme Court Justice Professor Itzhak Zamir was a student, and then teacher, at the Hebrew University's brand-new Faculty of Law in the early 1950s, most of the law he studied and taught was British. Most of Israeli law had yet to be written.

In the following decades, Warsaw-born Zamir was pivotal in laying the foundations of Israel's legal system — as professor, Faculty dean, Attorney General and, until retiring in 2001, Supreme Court judge. Whereas the Faculty's founders — also Zamir's teachers — had immigrated to Israel as professionals, Prof. Zamir was among the first homegrown jurists. "We had to build the legal system, develop laws and rules of our own, and also build our own legal institutions," he says.

"No less importantly, we had to educate both the public — and government — to respect the rule of law." This was no simple task,

he says. In the Diaspora and in pre-state Israel, most Jews had lived under regimes that they perceived as hostile and thus had little respect for the law. "But as soon as the state was founded, we had to change that attitude and inculcate that the law was now ours," he says. "We built a legal system that is independent, ethical and at a very high level."

Prof. Zamir's pioneering role — in shaping and promoting administrative law, in implementing the norms of public law and in academia — has earned him the Israel Prize and EMET Prize, Israel's highest accolades. His book *Administrative Power* is the most comprehensive account of administrative law in Israel and the most cited in related decisions of the Supreme Court.


Nati Shohat/Flash90

Today active in the field of ethics, Justice Zamir heads the Jerusalem Center for Ethics and previously led a committee that drafted an ethical code for members of the Knesset. Since the role of the judiciary in a democratic society includes review of government decisions and legislation, tension between the two branches is natural, says Zamir. However, the lack of a constitution — Israel's Basic Laws are a "partial constitution" he says — leaves the court vulnerable. "In countries with constitutions, one of the court's jobs is to check that laws comply with the constitution," he says. "We need a complete constitution to protect the country's court and citizens."

Dr. Keren Weinshall-Margel

IT is common knowledge that the Israeli judiciary suffers from a debilitating workload. Though often discussed in relation to trial length and delayed justice, judges' welfare, quality of judgments and reforms, surprisingly little was known about this overload until recently.

In 2012, the "case weight index" was introduced: an objective tool that quantifies judiciary burden, it tracks both the number of cases and the judiciary resources invested in them. The information generated by the index has become an integral part of the Israeli court system in planning and decision-making. Moreover, says its architect Dr. Keren Weinshall-Margel, who is the first incumbent of the Katia and Hans Guth-Dreyfus Lectureship for Conflict Resolution and the Law, it may eventually help solve the legal overload.

Weinshall-Margel joined the Faculty of Law in 2014, after four years as the founding director of the Israeli Courts Research Division. It was there that she conducted the research that produced the index, which may soon be adopted by other countries, including Ireland and Brazil. "Leaving the Supreme Court to pursue an academic career was not easy," she says, "but, as Israel's leading university in law, the Hebrew University was the natural choice."

With an academic background in political science and law, Weinshall-Margel specializes in empirical — meaning observational or experiential — research of legal institutions. She continues in her innovative approach, whereby she combines traditional quantitative and novel qualitative methods to uncover critical information. "Numbers don't tell the whole story," she says. "Thus data collection is often followed by empirical focus groups and interviews which provide new perspectives on the data."

In one project, Weinshall-Margel is using data from the US, Canada, Israel, India, the Philippines and other countries to study the impact of Supreme Court judges' ideological positions on their decisions. The combined experience of her doctorate at the Hebrew University, her visiting researcher fellowship at Harvard Law School and representing Israel at the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, she says, have opened the doors to fruitful collaboration with researchers both at Israeli and overseas institutions.

Dr. Weinshall-Margel's inaugural teaching course is on research methods. "Our Faculty is the first in Israel, and one of the first in the world, to introduce a compulsory course on the subject for its undergraduates," she says. "Empirical studies are increasingly relevant in the legal world — and our Faculty is leading the trend."

Profiles by Shoshana London Sappir

The Soil of Israel and the Soul of Israel are Inextricably Interwoven

University President Dr. Judah Magnes, Rehovot
Opening of the School of Agriculture, December 1942

Although the University's School of Agriculture did not open until 1942, the natural choice for its head was Prof. Yitzhak Elazari Volcani, who had laid the foundations of the country's agricultural settlement and research activities, trained numerous young native and immigrant farmers, and jointly founded the Jewish Agency's experimental station in agriculture in 1922. When the School finally acquired faculty status in 1952, it established research departments and increased its student intake, thus fuelling the development of the new state's research infrastructure, professional cadres and industrial prowess. Based at the bucolic Rehovot campus, today's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment and its Koret School of Veterinary Medicine and School of Nutritional Sciences remain Israel's only university-level institutions in these areas.

Above: A pastoral setting for a class for students at the Faculty of Agriculture, 1954. Main: Prof. Jaacov Katan (left) and Dr. Shay Covo. Inset: A student at the Faculty of Agriculture checks mango plant buds as part of experiment, 1954

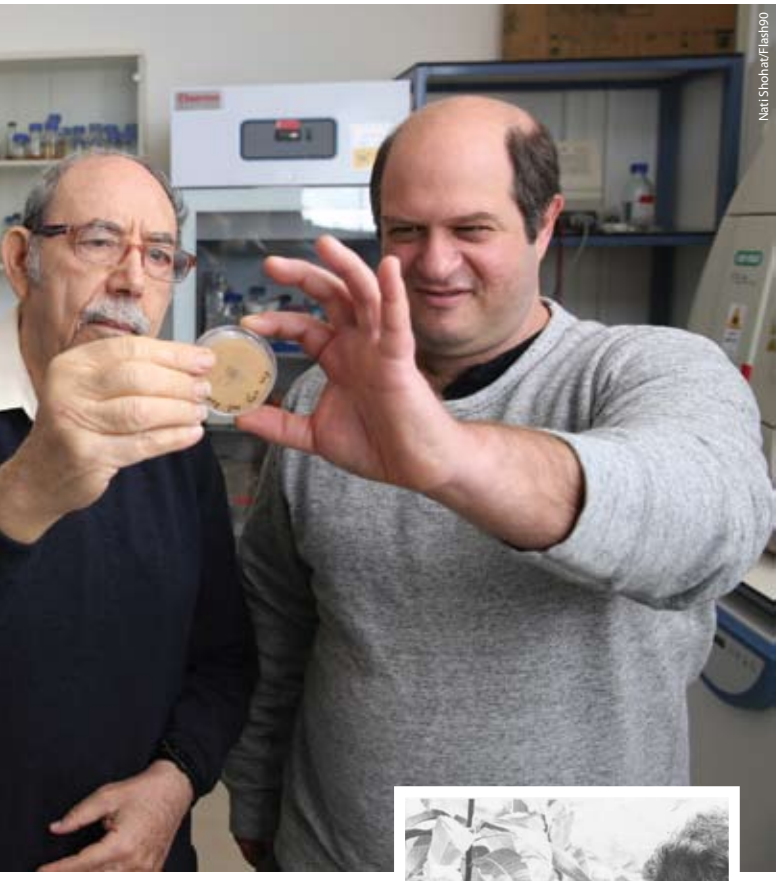
Professor Jaacov Katan

SUCCESSFUL farming requires fertile soil. But the very soil that promotes plant growth, says Professor Jaacov Katan, can also facilitate the dissemination of destructive pathogens. Almost 40 years ago, Katan and his team developed a solar-based method that raises soil temperature in order to eradicate pests before planting begins. Today, his method is improving crop yields throughout the world.

"The idea of soil solarization began when we noticed that tarping with transparent polyethylene sheets — a known technique for warming the ground in winter — leads to intensive heating of the soil during the summer," says Katan. "We thought that, likewise, it might improve farmers' ability to combat soil-borne pathogens with heat — it is a method that has been tried, with only partial success, since ancient times."

Katan was initially doubtful. "The temperatures achieved seemed insufficient for destroying pathogens in the soil's lower layers," he says. "However, our early results were very promising. Later, through intensive research in cooperation with local and overseas colleagues that saw the method tested in some 80 other countries we proved that soil solarization not only kills pests; it also enhances biological processes. In many cases, this results in healthier, higher-yield crops."

Iraqi-born Jaacov Katan immigrated to Israel at age 15, received his academic training at the Hebrew University and is today the Buck Family Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment. A much-respected teacher and elder statesman of science, Katan was the first Israeli academic to lecture in Egypt — where he conducted longstanding cooperative research and where his method has been particularly effective — after the 1981 peace treaty. In recognition of his achievements, he has received numerous awards, notably the Israel Prize in 2014.


Nati Shohat/Flash90


Hirshbein

Katan is gratified by his method's impact. However, it is by no means a magic tool. "It does not work for every pathogen, and is climate-dependent," he says. "Still, farmers in sunny, developing countries like our method because it is simple and relatively cheap. In more developed countries — where plastic sheeting can be laid out by machine — the technique is being used on a large scale."

Together with his former student, Prof. Abraham Gamliel of the Volcani Center, Katan is currently developing predictive models of how global warming — usually perceived as a negative phenomenon — might improve soil solarization performance.

"In our second book on soil solarization, published in 2012, Prof. Gamliel and I describe its ongoing impact throughout the world," he says. "It's good to know that it all started here, at the Hebrew University."

Dr. Shay Covo

THE agrochemical industry spends huge amounts on the development of pesticides, hoping to defeat pathogens that attack plants and reduce crop yields. Plant-destroying fungi, which cause 70 percent of all plant diseases, have a distinct advantage over chemical pesticides, says molecular geneticist Dr. Shay Covo. "The fungi are a 'moving target' for the pesticides — as they mutate and develop resistance, the chemical pesticides become decreasingly effective."

Covo returned to Israel in 2013 after seven years in the US as a visiting fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, a division of the NIH. "My decision to come back to Israel was not easy but, in addition to my wife and I wanting our children to get to know the extended family, I got a dream job — a scientific position in the perfect setting and with superb conditions." Proud of his newly-outfitted lab in the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Covo describes his mission as "the study of fungi, a diverse family of organisms that are important both to agriculture and biotechnology. We are interested in how fungal mutations occur and whether the mutation process can be controlled."

Covo's choice of pathogenic fungi is the same as that used by Prof. Jaacov Katan in his initial work on soil solarization: *F. oxysporum*. Covo is also using a harmless fungus: baker's yeast. "Studying yeast's natural genetic stability may help elucidate how pathogen mutation occurs — or doesn't — in the field.

"DNA is constantly damaged by external agents such as sunlight and tobacco smoke but this damage is thwarted when genetic repair mechanisms kick in," says Covo, adding that these protective mechanisms also appear in mammalian systems. "We study pathogenic fungi that somehow repair UV radiation damage, even though they live underground, far from any light source. This particular repair mechanism is highly preserved —


Douglas Guthrie


Yoram Aschheim

Fertile Minds

DECADES before the impact of global climate change was widely recognized, experts at the Hebrew University's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment were dealing with the challenges of living in a semi-arid, land-poor country — greening a desert nation, inventing breakthrough water technologies and transforming Israel from an importer of fruits and vegetables to a major exporter.

The Robert H. Smith Faculty has long been counted among the world's leading institutes in agriculture and environmental management whose researchers are at the cutting-edge of science. Its pioneering achievements include: tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables with long shelf lives, improved taste and disease resistance; advanced drip irrigation and fertigation systems that maximize water use; green farming by means of bio-control and soil-solarization approaches that combat plant diseases while reducing the use of chemicals; optimized dairy and fish production, including self-contained aquaculture; recycling technologies for wastewater and composting methods for solid municipal and agricultural waste; and intensive arid-zone agriculture.

Generations of Israeli professionals have received their training — in plant or animal sciences, in agricultural economics and rural development, and in human food and nutrition — at the Robert H. Smith Faculty. In addition, the Faculty has shared its transformative expertise in these areas with over 2,300 international students from 127 developing and high-income countries who have attended short- and long-term courses at the Smith Faculty's Division for International Studies, which is soon to become a School for International Studies.


Yoram Aschheim


Yoram Aschheim


Yoram Aschheim

versions appear in everything from fungi to humans — but the genetic structure that controls it varies radically in different organisms. We want to know why."

Covo believes that this variation may be related to function. "Genome stability is advantageous for humans, who want to avoid the mutations that can lead to cancer and other diseases," he says. "However, in pathogenic fungi, mutation could be seen as a positive trait; it promotes pesticide resistance and adaptive flexibility to new environments, both of which lead to survival."

Although Covo's research focuses on plant — not human — health, he is eager to shed light on the common ties between cancer cells, also characterized by a high rate of mutation, and pathogenic fungi. "By clarifying the molecular strategies that govern mutation, we may tangentially learn something about cancer onset," he says. "We might even elucidate how cancer cells — like fungi — resist chemical treatment."

Profiles by Sandy Cash

Save the Date

Highlights of Friends of the Hebrew University scheduled events during 2015/2016

June 15	**Jerusalem** Israel Friends' film series at Jerusalem Cinematheque
June 17	**Washington, DC** American Friends' Alumni Night at Nationals Park
July 12	**Los Angeles** American Friends' Western Region Alumni Reception
July 12	**London** British Friends' brunch for the Center for the Study of Multiculturalism
September	**Winnipeg** Canadian Friends' Hebrew University 90th Anniversary celebration
September 3	**Chicago** American Friends' Leaders of Distinction gala honoring Steven Derringer, I. Steven Edelson & Dr. Zehava L. Noah
September 19	**Los Angeles** American Friends' annual Bel Air Affaire student scholarship event & Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award Tribute honoring Albert Sweet
October	**Jerusalem** Israel Friends' archaeology tour guided by Prof. Yosef Garfinkel; plus Best of Hebrew University series
Oct. 26-Nov. 12	**Greece & Israel** Canadian Friends' Live, Learn & Explore mission
Oct. 29-Nov. 1	**Berlin** European Friends' ninth biannual conference
November 22	**Sydney** Australian Friends' Gala event
November	**Jerusalem** I. and B. Newman Prize for Hebrew Literature ceremony hosted by Israel Friends
November 8-9	**Jerusalem** Board of Governors' Executive Committee meeting
December	**London** British Friends' celebration of centenary of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity
January 2016	**Punta del Este** Argentinean Friends' summer symposium
January 16-17	**Palm Beach** American Friends' Palm Beach Gala, A Night in the Desert, and Annual Leadership Education Forum
February	**London** British Friends' annual BFHU-Yissum event
March	**Jerusalem** Cinema & Brain Week at the Jerusalem Cinematheque in collaboration with the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences
March	**London** British Friends' annual BFHU Legal Group dinner chaired by Lord Pannick QC
March 13-14	**Jerusalem** Board of Governors' Executive Committee meeting
Spring	**Jerusalem** Israel Friends' annual meeting of Circles of Excellence series
May	**Toronto** Canadian Friends' Genius: 100 Visions for the Future, an Einstein centennial celebration

Contact your local Friends of the Hebrew University for full listings

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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School
for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

Wisdom Has Built Her House

Proverbs 9:1

חכמות בנתה ביתה

משלי ט א

PIONEERING EXCELLENCE AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY: THE JACK, JOSEPH & MORTON MANDEL SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES

"The hallmark of our philanthropy is our commitment to invest in people with the values, ability and passion to change the world."

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel
Mandel Foundation Founders

As Israel's first graduate school in the humanities, the Mandel School joins a Hebrew University continuum of pioneering in the humanities that dates back to the 1920s. In December 1924, preempting the official opening of the Hebrew University, the Institute of Jewish Studies opened. It was joined by the Institute of Oriental Studies in 1926.

Now, 90 years later, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities is forging new frontiers as it builds innovative communities of young Israeli and international graduate and postgraduate scholars — providing them with multiple forums for vibrant discourse and cross-fertilization, encouraging them to transcend academic boundaries as they pursue daring critical thought, and fostering the outstanding intellectual leadership that is critical for our future.

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

AMAZING THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE

The creation of a new home for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities — a pioneering endeavor of the Hebrew University's Faculty of Humanities — represents the culmination of a 15-year process that began as a dream. In 2000, Mandel Foundation Chairman and CEO Morton Mandel shared his vision for ensuring the survival of the Jewish people with then-Hebrew University president Professor Menachem Magidor: preserving the Jewish bookshelf, fostering mutual responsibility among Jews, and establishing excellence as a supreme value.

An enthused Magidor returned to Jerusalem and charged Professor Israel Yuval with finding an innovative way to realize Mandel's vision. "My idea was to create a truly interdisciplinary research center for Jewish studies; this would go on to become a research center for the humanities in general — and is today the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities," says Yuval, who now serves as Academic Director of the Mandel School.




Jewish studies needed to be repositioned, suggested Yuval. "Well-established and respected, Jewish studies no longer needed to be particularistic. Rather, it must become part of the general discourse, with its distinctiveness highlighted within the context of the shared and the universal. Far from impairing its character, this would make Jewish culture part of the broader fabric of Western and Eastern culture while allowing clearer expression of contemporary trends in general cultural studies."

Within a few months, Yuval was transforming his idea into a reality and, in 2002, the Mandel Scholion - Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies was established.

Mandated to create new norms of research, Yuval headed the unique Jewish research center that comprises two tracks: three-year interdisciplinary research groups of four senior and four doctoral scholars; and the Mandel Scholars program, which annually awards three-year postdoctoral fellowships to two promising young scholars in Jewish studies or related areas.

1981

Barbara & Morton Mandel Chair in Cognitive Psychology and Education established

1982

Barbara Mandel appointed to Board of Governors and its Council of Trustees

1988

Mandel Chair in Jewish Education established by Joseph & Florence Mandel, Jack & Lilyan Mandel, Morton & Barbara Mandel

1992

Barbara Mandel elected National President of the American Friends of Hebrew University

1993

Morton Mandel conferred an Honorary Doctorate

Mandel Scholion's inaugural research group, Modes of Canonization: The Case of the Cairo Genizah, was headed by current Hebrew University President Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson. He played a key role in nurturing the new center and instilling the methods and ethos that continue to guide each research group.

Scholion quickly became a respected part of Israel's academic landscape, with the research groups' conferences proving popular public events. "We had begun to emerge from the ivory tower," says Yuval. "This was no trivial achievement."

In 2010, the Mandel Foundation made two bold decisions to further boost humanities studies at the Hebrew University and give full expression to Morton Mandel's vision: It broadened the purview of Mandel Scholion to the full breadth of the humanities; and it decided to establish a new school for advanced studies in the humanities, to be housed in a new building bridging the campus with its surrounding terrain of desert and garden.




Five years later, the pieces are in place.

One can almost hear the hum of dialogue and exchange of ideas in the glistening new building on Mount Scopus' eastern flank that houses the residents of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities — Mandel Scholion Center members, Martin Buber Society Fellows, Presidents Scholarship doctoral candidates, Mandel Scholarship master's students, and visiting lecturers. The diverse spaces they share encourage every form of dialogue: from lone study and *hevruta* pairs to small seminars, coffee klatches, workshops and formal lectures.

The building is approached via the University's botanical garden of native flora and sits perched on a precipice overlooking the desert that stretches endlessly toward the mountains of Jordan. This location is "metaphorically a marvelous notion for the building and the vision of what the humanities can do," says its creator, master architect Michael McKinnell.

A HISTORY OF GENEROSITY & INVOLVEMENT

1994

Barbara & Morton Mandel inscribed on Truman Founders Wall; Barbara Mandel awarded the American Friends' Yigal Allon Award

1995

Morton Mandel appointed to Board of Governors; Lillian Weinberger Fellowships established; grant awarded by Jack & Lilyan Mandel, Joseph & Florence Mandel and Morton & Barbara Mandel to University Committee on Jewish Continuity

1996

Barbara Mandel conferred an Honorary Doctorate

2002

Mandel Scholion - Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies & Mandel Scholars program founded

2003

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies named

The building is "quirky" he says. "If it is too perfect there is a sense that all of the problems of the world have been solved — and they haven't. That's why the building is here, to attempt to add something to the solutions not yet attained."

"The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities is a game-changer that allows the Hebrew University to reach new levels of excellence," says Faculty of Humanities Dean Professor Dror Wahrman.

"Not only does its story seal the particular-universal union, but the Mandel School is at the vanguard of a significant shift in current trends in the humanities," says Wahrman. "It endorses the humanities' role in equipping scholars with adaptable tools, in contributing to the public discourse, and in safeguarding civilization's cultural heritage."

"Amazing things are happening here," says Prof. Yuval as he surveys the bustling activity in the School. "People and ideas are meeting — the human spirit can't help but soar."




THE MANDEL-HEBREW UNIVERSITY CONNECTION: ONGOING SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP

As the timeline shows, throughout the years, Morton and Barbara Mandel and the Mandel Foundation have extended their generosity to a wide range of Hebrew University endeavors. These also include the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, the Melton Center for Jewish Education, the Harvey M. Krueger Family Center for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology, the Lautenberg Center for Immunology & Cancer Research, the Peter A. Krueger Laboratory for Research in Infectious Diseases, the Max Kampelman Chair in Democracy & Human Rights, the Faculty of Medicine, the Rothberg International School, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education, the Chaim Herzog Lifetime Achievement Award and numerous research programs, scholarships and fellowships.

As part of her active role in the University's Board of Governors, Barbara Mandel has served as a key leader of the University's fundraising efforts for the past two decades. She served as co-chair of the University's initial Capital Campaign which was launched in 1997 and has been at its helm until today.

2009

Mandel Foundation supports three-year pilot of Cornerstones Program in the Humanities & Liberal Arts

2010

Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities established

2012

Construction of Mandel School commences

2014

Morton Mandel awarded the Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education, Barbara Mandel appointed an Honorary Chair of the Board of Governors

2015

New building of Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities opens

MEET THE SCHOLARS

Polish-born **Magdalena Luszczynska**'s experiences as a master's exchange student at the Hebrew University led her to return for her doctoral studies, where Mandel School Academic Director Professor Israel Yuval is her academic supervisor. Luszczynska appreciates the "many perks" of being a Hebrew University doctoral candidate at the Mandel School. "These include excellent supervisors and a scholarly community of fellow students: both make me feel highly motivated and fulfilled," she says.

Luszczynska is doing her doctorate in the Department of the History of the Jewish People and is a junior member of the Mandel Scholion research group, A Question of Identity. Her subject, anti-Jewish Protestant polemics, was inspired by her heritage. Undoubtedly, her familiarity with several languages — including Polish, German, Hebrew, Yiddish and English — helps her research focus on the relationship between Jews and Christians in sixteenth-century Poland, a period she describes as "an exciting time for Poland culturally, and a fruitful time for Polish Jewry."

Magdalena Luszczynska
President's Scholar & Mandel Scholion Junior Fellow

Anton Povzner
Mandel Scholar

Late Antique and Early Medieval art is the research focus of **Dr. Galit Noga-Banai**, a senior lecturer in the Department of History of Art. A member of Mandel Scholion's Picture Power research group, she says that "Scholion is the best thing that has happened to me at the Hebrew University." Picture Power — now in its final year and whose three other senior members comprise art historians who are experts in Egyptology, the Ancient Near East, and Islam — is conducting a comparative study of royal imagery from different periods: exploring its social, political, and religious meaning and analyzing the dynamics of its survival.

"Mandel Scholion fosters generosity, knowledge, service, and friendship — and actively encourages independent and sustained research within an interdisciplinary community," says Noga-Banai, who is poised to participate in a new group, Liturgy and Art as Constructors of Cultural Memory in the Middle Ages, beginning next year.

Dr. Galit Noga-Banai
Mandel Scholion Senior Scholar

English literature student **Anton Povzner**, the recipient of a Mandel Scholarship for Master's Studies in the Humanities, immigrated to Israel from Ukraine at age 10. As a graduate of the University's Amirim program for outstanding undergraduates, he has already experienced the advantage of being part of a collective. At the Mandel School, he says, he enjoys being part of a scholarly community where students from different disciplines can exchange perspectives and give helpful feedback on research. "There is a substantial benefit in having other people with whom to share one's ideas."

Povzner says that his interest in English literature stems from "the insights it provides into human conditions." In his research, he is examining the idea of selfhood — "the changing notions of what constitutes an 'I' and the crises thereof" — starting with the literature of the early English settlements in America.

Prof. Sabine Mangold-Will
Visiting Researcher

Professor Sabine Mangold-Will of Wuppertal University in Germany has been keen to return to Israel since first visiting in 1992. "There could be no better place for my research on German-Jewish orientalists," says the Mandel School visiting researcher. Mangold-Will is currently writing a biography of Gotthold Weil, a German Jew who became professor of Turkish studies at the Hebrew University's Institute of Oriental Studies and headed its National and University Library. Alongside her research, she is teaching a seminar on German-Jewish orientalism.

Mangold-Will enjoys working with high-caliber students and colleagues such as Professor Yfaat Weiss, head of the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History at the Hebrew University, who has encouraged Mangold-Will in her research. With 2015 marking 50 years of diplomatic relations, Israel-Germany ties depend on maintaining the momentum, says Mangold-Will. "I hope I can contribute to this by strengthening the cooperation between my home university and the Hebrew University."

Dr. Kim Wünschmann
Martin Buber Fellow

Dr. Kim Wünschmann from Germany is one of 26 Israeli and German postdoctoral researchers at the Hebrew University who have been awarded scholarships by the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities at the Hebrew University, a project of Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Wünschmann, whose academic education included a year as a visiting graduate student at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School, studies twentieth-century German-Jewish history. In her most recent work, she investigated the little-known pre-war history of the concentration camps and their role in the persecution of the Jews.

With its wealth of skilled researchers in her field and accessible archive resources, the Hebrew University is an excellent venue for her research, says Wünschmann. "I especially enjoy the perks of being a Martin Buber Fellow in the new Mandel School — not only do I have my own office but I am part of a place that fosters creativity."

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