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It is with much pleasure that I announce that Tel Aviv University Maurice and Gabriela School of Dental Medicine, Founded by the Alpha Omega Fraternity, has "reopened" and after 3 years during which no new students were admitted, we have accepted over 40 new students for the first year of studies. This step constitutes a vote of confidence by the University in the future of the school. All that has happened followed the agreement by the University that an objective committee be appointed with a mandate to investigate the most pressing needs of the Dental School. It has further been agreed by the University and the Ministry of Education to unconditionally accept the committee’s decision.

Much credit is due Mr. Gideon Sa’ar, Minister of Education, Professor Shlomo Grossman, Head of VATAT (Planning and Budgeting committee for Education), the University Administration, the Faculty of the School, and of course to the members of the School’s Dental Advisory Board (DAB). They include Ralph Rothstein, Harold Presikel, Mervyn Druian, Andre Amiach (present…and adding outstanding input…and at the recent meeting of the TAU Board of Governors), Ben Williamowsky, Howard Pranikoff, Gerald Niznick, Normal Mohl, Leo Sreebny, Avi Chesner, and recently added members, Stan Bergman, and Steve Kess and Elisha Ben-Zur. Many ‘thanks’ especially to the members of the Alpha Omega International Fraternity for their belief in us and for their continuous support through some trying times. Last but not least, we recognize the students and the faculty of TAUSDM who firmly fought for the cause they believed in all along.

The impact of the state’s decision to appoint the committee was the immediate renewal of admission of new students to the first and fourth years. For 2009-10 we have admitted over 40 students to the first year, and 14 to the fourth. As soon as the national committee presents its conclusions, the University will take further positive steps. We all expect major restructuring steps that will allow the school to continue to pursue its high level of dental education and research. The school presently faces two major concerns: replacing most of the dental equipment and refurbishing the clinics and laboratories. Most of the dental units at the school are as old as the school is. The post graduate floor was established 35 years ago and has never been renovated, and the phantom laboratory of which we were so proud in the past, no longer functions as it should.

The Future Is Now campaign is aimed to assist the school to proudly enter the new century, although a decade late. It symbolizes a critical turning point in the history of our school. After joining and being one of the world leading dental schools, and then being threatened by complete closure, we can say once again – the School is here for ever, and our dream shall never die.

Prof. Haim Tal
Head of the School
INAUGURATION OF THE
GERALD AND REESA
NIZNICK FACULTY
CLINICS

Prof. Haim Tal,
Head of TAUSDM

The Gerald and Reesa Niznick Faculty Clinics were inaugurated on May 20, 2009, at the annual meeting of the Tel Aviv University Board of Governors. The Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity was represented by Ralph Rothstein who received a certificate of honor from Tel Aviv University on behalf of the Fraternity. The event was opened by Prof. Zvi Galil, President of the Tel Aviv University, and was attended by some 100 guests including Ralph and Bette Rothstein, Andre and Michel Amiach and Mervin and Andy Druian, all member of the TAU Board of Governors.

Following remarks made by Prof. Zvi Galil and Prof. Yoseph Mekory, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and myself addressed the guests. The following are citations from my speech:

"We have gathered here today to celebrate the inauguration of the Gerald and Reesa Niznick Faculty Clinics. Making this dream come true has required an endless amount of energy, effort, good will and volunteering from a long list of people who pushed us from behind and pulled us from the front......"

"Dr. Gerald and Reesa Niznick are the greatest supporters of our School next to Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger. I first met Dr. Niznick at NYC in 1982, where I was impressed by his effort to introduce CORE-VENT, Jerry's newly invented implant system and his philosophy in Implant Dentistry. A few years later we met in LA, when I was invited to Dr. Niznick's facility to learn more about his innovations in this field. Being very impressed I invited Jerry to come and visit us at Tel Aviv, and when he came, we persuaded him to start investing in excellence, i.e. to invest at TAUSDM, which he did."

"I remember Dr. Niznick's first investment in the school – a modest donation which allowed us to build the Unit of Implantology in the Post Graduate wing, thus assisting us to promote modern implantology. Two years later Gerry..."
came to evaluate our work, and being impressed, he supported us with a special grant of $90,000, to be used entirely for research in Implantology. Much to my surprise Jerry did not ask for any recognition.

In 1994 Dr. Niznick created the Gerald A. Niznick Chair of Implant Dentistry, and a few years later Jerry and Reesa pledged 1 M USD for the building of a new Post Graduate floor on top of the Dental School, an ambitious plan which unfortunately had to be cancelled later, owing to the financial crisis at TAU. In spite of the disappointment Gerry asked to present him with alternative projects which would better fit the restructuring and future plans for the School. The result was the construction of the Gerald and Reesa Niznick Faculty Clinic which we are inaugurating today. Since additional support was needed to complete this project, AO Int. Dent. Fraternity agreed to bridge the gap. Thank you Gerry, thank you Reesa, thank you Ralph, I have no words to express how fortunate and blessed I feel to be able to stand here today, and deliver these words as a tribute to you. This event that will hopefully be remembered as a turning point in the evolution of the school, a turning point which will take us from strength to strength. We expect The Gerald and Reesa Faculty Clinic to be one of the leading dental centers in Israel, providing the public with comprehensive dental treatment using all the latest techniques. In addition, it will provide Israeli dentists with continuing education and residency training, exposing them to the most advanced professional technologies. The faculty clinic will expose our students to practical modern dentistry, a branch of the profession which is not included in most schools' curricula. Finally, these clinics will help, in time, to stabilize the school economically. The entire faculty will participate in this endeavor and it is expected to become a one stop shop providing dental care in all dental disciplines.

What has happened at the TAUSDM during the past 4 years, and what is still to happen here, is a revolutionary change in the way of teaching students, a change in the standards of faculty volunteering, and a pioneering effort to run this school at the same speed, on half the consumption of petrol. This revolution demanded a major change, and change is a difficult thing to go through, especially a change from a known situation to an unknown one.

"Jerry, Reesa, Ralph, I have no words to express how fortunate and blessed we all feel to have friends like you with us. People like you convince me that the season of Light, the spring of hope, and the best of times, are still ahead of us."
Professor Andrew Eder visited the Dental School at TAU and met with Professors Haim Tal and Benny Peretz. In his capacity as Chairman of the Alpha Omega London Chapter Charitable Trust, discussions were held regarding London’s potential contribution to the School’s “Future is Now” Campaign. As Director of Education and CPD at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute in London, potential collaboration in both education and research was also considered. It was a real pleasure for Professor Eder to visit the School and he plans to return next year to lecture to the postgraduate students following his recent appointment as Visiting Professor to the School.

PROMOTIONS

Academic Promotions

**Prof. Miron Weinreb**, Professor in Oral Biology

**Prof. Rafael Pilo**, Associate Professor in Dental Biotechnology

**Dr. Noam Yarom**, Lecturer in Oral Medicine

**Dr. Anda Kfir**, Lecturer in Endodontontology

**Dr. Ifat Manor**, Clinical Lecturer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Although I only stayed for a couple of hours visiting the School, I was able to appreciate some things which called my attention and that also make this School different from the one where I study in my city, Buenos Aires. First of all, I noticed the small amount of students who have success in entering this School. This makes me think that people studying here have a great willpower and have also achieved high qualifications in their previous examinations. While at the University of Buenos Aires there are approximately two hundred and fifty people studying Dentistry per year, at this School there are only fifty people; this bearing in mind that the preparatory examinations are quite accessible in the first case. Which makes me think that each student receives much more attention from the teachers; as a consequence, the School has a better academic level. Likewise, due to the amount of students, the rooms are smaller in this School. Then I noticed how comfortably students work at the dental office. The fact that there are boxes and that the instrumental is at hand and at the classroom, makes the learning process easier and efficient. At my School, each student must carry the instrumental in a bag from a room with lockers to the classroom every day. When lessons are over at the end of the day, students have to set up the instrumental, wrap it up and send it to sterilize. Finally, I perceive a nice environment among teachers and students, which allows them to work in a better, peaceful and less stressful way. And, in my opinion, this might result in better professionals-to-be. These may seem simple and superficial notes, but they called the attention of a foreign student like me. I would very much like to thank the teachers of the Course of Pediatrician Dentistry for giving me the chance of sharing with them a full day at this School.

Ezequiel Kes, Fourth year student, Dentistry School, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
The International President Alpha Omega Dr. Daniel Uditsky and his wife Arlene visited our school in April 2009. During his visit, Dr. Uditsky attended the School Board meeting, and later met with some of the senior faculty and the students. Dr. Uditsky addressed the students of TAUSDM and talked about their role in the community, the importance of voluntary work and AO. The visit was concluded with a luncheon at the TAU faculty club in the now famous “Green House”.

Dr. Uditsky addressing the senior faculty and the students of TAUSDM.

Dr. Uditsky attending the School Board meeting.

Arlene and Dr. Daniel Uditsky standing by the Wall of Honors.
Prof. Herbert Judes

Herb Judes immigrated to Israel with his family at the end of 1967. During his military service in the IDF (1971-1972), he was approached by some of the leading dentists in Tel Aviv and asked to establish a Department of Operative Dentistry. This was in response to a request from the Ministry of Health to set up a retraining program for new immigrant dentists from the (then) Soviet Union. Herb turned to a few of his colleagues and friends to assist in setting up this course. The lectures and clinics mostly took place at night in the army dental clinic at Tel Hashomer. This was in fact the founding of the department and the precursor to the full undergraduate program in Restorative Dentistry at the Tel Aviv University.

Herb served as head of the department from 1972 to 2004. Under his guidance the department made rapid and significant progress. It became recognized as a leading department world-wide and many scientific papers were published as well as lectures given at a great many national and international meetings. In 2004 the department boasted 7 professors and a number of senior lecturers and lecturers. A new generation of highly competent and knowledgeable teachers was built up during Herb's tenure, the main source being from graduates of the Hadassa School of Dental Medicine. Some of these men and women hold leading positions in the field of academics and also serve on important professional bodies in Israel today.

Herb was elected Head of the Dental School in 1992 until 2001. During this time the school made great progress in all fields and was considered a first rate institution of higher learning both in Israel and abroad. Over the years he served on all the important committees in the school and was particularly active in fundraising and PR for the dental school. In addition he served on various committees in the Israel Dental Association, was the chairman of the Examining Board for specialist status under the auspices of the Ministry of Health in Israel for several years, He was Chairman of the Israel Prosthodontic Society for a number of years and held many other positions during his professional career. He feels that his main achievement and source of pride was in establishing a generation of outstanding clinicians, teachers and academics in his department. A second generation is now in the making, some of whom have already achieved academic ranks and all of whom are very fine clinicians.

During the last four years (2004 – 2008) Herb served as the Clinical Director of the dental school. His contribution to the profession and especially to the fields of Restorative and Prosthetic Dentistry and Implantology was recently recognized by the Israel Prosthodontic Society by awarding him Honorary Membership.

Herb has now formally retired from the School of Dental Medicine but is still active in his private practice.
On September 10, 2009 the sixth class of the “International Postgraduate Program in Orthodontics at Tel Aviv University” celebrated the completion of their 31/2 years of studies. The ceremony took place at the Lola and Dolphi Ebner Auditoriums at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine. The Graduation Ceremony was honored by the presence of his Excellency the Ambassador of Greece in Israel Mr. Nikolaos Zafeiropoulos and the Deputy Head-of-Mission of the Embassy of Cyprus, Mr. Micheal Mavros. The graduation was attended by graduates’ families who came from abroad, past graduates of the program and Department Chairmen of the Maurice and Gabriela Goldschlager School of Dental Medicine.
Prof. Shimon Yankielowicz - Pro-rector of Tel Aviv University, Prof. Ruth Shalgi - Vice Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Haim Tal - Head, School of Dental Medicine, Prof. Alexander Vardimon, Chairman, Department of Orthodontics, Prof. Myron Lieberman, Former Chairman, Dept. of Orthodontics and Dr. Ilias Kiriopoulos, Class Speaker, addressed the gathering and sent words of greeting.

Prof. Yankielowicz emphasized the future mission of the graduates as Israel Ambassadors in their countries. Prof. Ruth Shalgi stressed the important role of international programs at Tel Aviv University, such as the “International Postgraduate Program in Orthodontics of the School of Dental Medicine” and “The New York State/American Program of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine”. Prof. Haim Tal addressed the continuity of the International program since 1993 with more than 75 students attending the program from Argentina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, England, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxemburg, Mexico, Portugal, Thailand and Israel. Prof. Alexander Vardimon asked the graduates to practice orthodontics under the guidelines of the Hippocratic Oath and the Physician’s Prayer of Maimonides (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon). Prof. Lieberman quoted Confucius’ phrase, “If I walk down the road with two other men at least one of them will be my teacher. I will pick out the good points of the one and imitate them, and the bad points of the other and correct them in myself.” Dr. Ilias Kiriopoulos stated that after 3½ years in Israel apart from orthodontics, they (the foreign students) learned the true meaning of friendship - from their Israeli’s classmates and the staff of the Orthodontic Department.

The Keynote Speaker, Professor Urban Hägg from the University of Hong Kong, China, opened the scientific part of the Graduation Ceremony. Professor Hägg’s presentation on “Growth Modification in Class III Malocclusion – Fantasy or Reality” demonstrated the limitations of overcoming genetic expression by orthodontic means. Dr. Moshe Davidovitch, addressed the teaching philosophy of the Program exposing the student to a variety of orthodontic techniques during his clinical
studies. As part of this teaching philosophy, Dr. George Polychronopoulos presented the Invisalign System, Dr. Michael Tamassios the mini-implants technique, Dr. Naomi Vasker Bechor the orthognathic approach, Dr. Ioannis Hadjisotiriou the extraction therapy, Dr. Stavros Kiriopoulos the Damon system and Dr. Natalya Shoham the lingual system.

In his closing words Prof. Alexander Vardimon thanked Dr. Nir Shpack and Dr. Shlomo Covo of the Organizing Committee and expressed his gratitude to the companies who supported the event: Indent-Invisalign, Ormodent and Teva.

The Graduation Ceremony was concluded by the traditional “throwing the hats” ritual.
Ziv Simon was born to a mother who is a second generation to holocaust survivors and to an Israeli father. His grandparents lost their closest family members in the holocaust and settled in Germany after the war. Ziv grew up in Israel, served in the Israeli Defense Forces and thereafter attended the Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine at Tel Aviv University. He then moved to Canada to obtain a specialty degree in periodontics at the University of Toronto. After graduating he moved to the United States and established his private practice in Beverly Hills, California. He became active in the Los Angeles chapter of Alpha Omega and served as president in 2007. Brenda Nathan and Fani Simon (Ziv’s mom) initiated a support program for the holocaust.
survivors residing in Israel. Unfortunately, many of the survivors have been facing serious financial difficulties as well as medical and dental problems. Ziv, together with Dr. Max Cutler and Dr. Lionell Greenberg started a charity campaign to provide dental treatment for the survivors in need. The campaign was successful and they were able to raise funds to get the program started. Several holocaust survivors have already been treated and the future of the project looks promising.

A special “Holocaust Survivors’ fund” has been established within the Foundation in the US. The program to treat holocaust survivors at the Tel Aviv School of Dental Medicine, is being directed by Shlomo Matalon, David Ash, and Eldad Helft. Members of the Tel Aviv AO chapters and senior dental students are excited to be involved in this worthy project. Contributions to this program may be made to the Alpha Omega Foundation Holocaust Survivors Fund.

Mrs. Fani Simon and Mrs. Brenda Nathan
My name is Meir Fishman and I was born in the Stislabov ghetto in Poland in 1940. My family was very wealthy—my father owned factories and shops, dealt in property and we had a vacation home in the mountains.

When I was about a year old in the ghetto, my mother and I were smuggled out by a friend of my mothers who had an artificial leg in which he hid forged Arian documents as well as diamonds and cash. My mother was caught by the Germans and taken to a labor camp, but I was hidden, for 10 months in a cellar, by the daughter of a friend of my mothers, who was a nun. At the age of three, a Jewish woman betrayed her to the Gestapo and she immediately smuggled me from there to a monastery. There I was given the Polish name Marek Yaratzky. She told me not to undress so that I would not be identified as a Jew. I was much neglected in the monastery with old clothes and covered in lice and of course there was an acute shortage of food and basic hygiene conditions. The nun was caught by the Germans who tore out her finger nails, but she did not betray me. Towards the end of the war, she transferred me to an orphanage in Krakow where I was beaten to within an inch of my life and was kept in subhuman conditions. I was 5 1/2 years old when I escaped from there and found my way to the convent where the nun attached me to a Jewish family traveling by train to Munich. To my collar she tied a label with my real name and my mothers name. In Munich I had nothing to eat and did not know where my mother was. Only the street prostitutes "adopted" me and gave me food to survive. I was 7 years old and looked for work. Someone took me to be the doorman of a brothel with a poster to attract clients. They dressed me in the clothes of a pimp and I called out, in English, "fucky fucky 1 dollar". The American soldiers would pity me and give me a quarter. I cleaned restaurants for a meal and collected cigarette butts which I re-rolled and sold to passers-by. At age 7 1/2 I found my mother who was a complete cripple from the beatings she sustained in the labor camp. I found her in a hospital and transferred her to Munich—I a 7 1/2 year old child was taking fateful decisions for both of us. My mother and I worked in the refuge center in Munich where I cooked at my mothers' instruction and in return for which we were given food. In 1949 we made aliyah to Israel—my father and all his brothers were burned to death in the synagogue in Stanislav in 1942.

In Israel we came to Raanana where I rented a small room from a very good hearted woman. My mother slept in the bed and I on the floor. Every day after school I would ride by bike to Hod Hasharon where I worked at "Tnuva" cleaning milk cans so as to earn money for rent and food.

For 15 years I received psychological treatments through "Amcha" the organization which provided mental health treatments for holocaust survivors.

I got married in 1964. Today I have 2 married daughters and 6 grandchildren and feel the need to give them all that I did not have.
Continuing the tradition of the annual meeting devoted to dental research, the forum took place in the Sigma Epsilon Delta auditorium on October 30, 2009. Prof. Carlos Nemcovski coordinated the event. The forum was honored by the presence of Mr. Yona Goldschleger, and was attended by over 120 participants.

Following greetings by Prof. Haim Tal, Head of the School, Dr. Dov Sydney, of the International College of Dentists, awarded Refael Abir, of the 6th year, with a Student Award of the International College of Dentists. Three students received The Yocheved and Dr. Daniel Sarnat awards for outstanding DMD dissertations. The distinguished teacher certificates were received by Dr. Shlomo Matalon and Dr. Ilan Sebaon (volunteer teacher).

Presentations by representatives of the school’s departments: Prof. Sando Pitaru, Prof. Benny Peretz, Dr. Noam Yarom, Dr. Nir Shpack, Dr. Ilan Beiteltum, Dr. Igor Tsesis, and Dr. Ofer Mardinger concluded the event.
Refael Abir (left) receives the Student award from Dr. Dov Sydney of the International College of Dentists and Ms. Gal Shelly of GC Company (right).

Dr. Raviv Zari (middle) receives the Yocheved and Dr. Daniel Sarnat award for outstanding DMD thesis (1st prize) from Prof. Haim Tal (left) and Prof. Tamar Brosh (right).

Dr. Itai Blum (middle) receives the Yocheved and Dr. Daniel Sarnat award for outstanding DMD thesis (1st prize).
Dr. Hagai Hazan (middle) receives the Yocheved and Dr. Daniel Sarnat award for outstanding DMD thesis (2nd prize).

Dr. Shlomo Matalom (right) receives a certificate of appreciation for being elected outstanding teacher from Prof. Haim Tal.

Dr. Ilan Sebaon (left) received a certificate of appreciation for being elected outstanding volunteer teacher from Prof. Haim Tal.
Martin Gross was born in Nairobi Kenya in 1949, his parents escaping Hitler’s Germany to Kenya shortly before the war. In 1960 the family moved to London where he was educated and qualified at Guys hospital dental school of London University in 1969. In 1974 he competed a 2 year master of science post graduate program in Prosthodontics at Northwestern University Chicago. From 1974-1977 he worked in practice in London’s West End and as a registrar at Guys hospital dental school. In 1977 he made Aliya to Israel settling in Tel Aviv. In 1978 he lucked out and married his amazing wife Fanny and has been blessed with 3 magnificent children and is shortly to become a grandfather. He joined the school as a volunteer in the prosthetics department in 1978 and has been on the faculty ever since with a break of 2 years obligatory service in the IDF. In the first Lebanon war he served briefly as a dentist in Marjayoun treating IDF soldiers and is the proud owner of a certificate attesting to 18 years of milluim. For the last 30 years he has worked in practice and part time on the faculty. In 1982 he completed a book on occlusion in restorative dentistry which was subsequently published in German, Spanish, Russian and Indonesia. From 1982-1989 he worked in the occlusion and TMD department and moved to the post graduate prosthodontic program department which he has directed since 1997 for the last 12 years. He is proud to have played a role in the education of over 20 successful specialist prosthodontists many now holding leadership positions and continuing education roles in the profession. He became associate clinical professor in prosthodontics in 2001, was the prosthetic department coordinator, served on the national prosthodontic specialty committee and a chair of the prosthetic specialty examination committee. He was treasurer, editor and president of the Israeli Society of Oral Rehabilitation between 1989-1994 and a founder member of the Israel society of craniomandibular disorders. He has over 50 publications and 70 international presentations. He has served on the executive committee of the International College of Prosthodontics ICP since 2005, was recently voted Vice President and will be President in 2012. He is chairman of an ICP committee to establish international graduate prosthodontic curriculum guidelines and was vice chair of a working group of the European Association of Dental Education in Athens to establish criteria for postgraduate prosthodontic education specifically for the European Union. He is a reviewer for the International journal of Prosthodontics and on the editorial board of a new Quintessence journal on craniomandibular disorders. A little disappointed with the turn of events in the school and university he has decided to leave before the retirement age leaving more time to pursue his other interests of sculpting, dish washing, windsurfing, biking, sailing and completing his latest book on occlusion in rehabilitation for a major international publisher. He wishes the school, faculty and students every success for the future.
ISRAEL DENTAL ASSOCIATION HONORS THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION MR. GIDEON SAAR, AND PROF. HAIM SARNAT OF THE TAUSDM, IN A GALA DINNER

From left: Mr. Gideon Saar, Minister of Education; Dr. Itzhak Chen, Chairman of IDA; Prof. Haim Tal, Head of TAUSDM; Prof. Mark Littner, head of the honors committee.
In a Gala dinner, which took place during the annual Scientific congress, the Israel Dental Association (IDA) honored the Minister of Education Mr. Gideon Saar, in view of his efforts to reopen the TAUSDM. In his speech, Mr. Saar described the importance of dental health and dental education to the general health of the public, and emphasized the significance of TAUSDM in educating the future generations of dental manpower in Israel.

Prof. Haim Sarnat, former Head of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at TAUSDM received the IDA 2009 achievement award. Prof. Marc Littner, head of the honors committee described Prof. Sarnat's academic and clinical achievements and his pioneering activities in the field of pediatric dentistry at a national level.

From left: Prof. Adam Stabholz, Dean of the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine; Dr. Itzhak Chen, IDA Chairman, Prof. Haim Tal, Head of TAUSDM; Dr. Andre Amiach, member of the TAU Board of governors, Prof. Ayala Stabholz, Co-Chairperson of the IDA Scientific Annual Congress.

Prof. Haim Tal and Dr. Itzhak Chen.

Prof. Haim Sarnat
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