

# Hadassah Academic College

## From the Inside Out

Fall 2013



## College breaks ground for the Helmsley Charitable Trust Building

One hundred faculty members, students, and friends of the College attended a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, June 17, 2013 for a new teaching building to be built adjacent to the College's historic campus in downtown Jerusalem.

A gift of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the new seven-storey Interdisciplinary Science Center will provide much-needed state of the art classroom facilities as well as a central auditorium for College and community-wide events and a public gallery for art, photography, and cultural exhibits.

The festive ceremony was held in the framework of the College's annual Board of Trustees meeting. Participants included Sanford Frankel and James O'Sullivan representing the Helmsley Charitable Trust, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, and Ambassador Mark Sofer, President of the Jerusalem Foundation. In addressing the event participants, Mayor Barkat said, "The expansion of Hadassah Academic College is a strategically important and deeply meaningful gift to Jerusalem. It strengthens the city by increasing the young population and creates an engine for growth of the sciences, one of Jerusalem's key economic drivers".

The building is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2015-16 academic year.



Mayor Barkat addresses the audience



Left to right: Prof. Bertold Fridlender, Mr. David Brodet, Mayor Nir Barkat, Mr. Sandor Frankel, Mrs. Ruth Frankel

## Record number of graduates

Over one thousand family members and well wishers filled Jerusalem City Hall's Safra Square on June 17<sup>th</sup> to participate in the College's annual degree granting ceremony. A record four hundred young men and women were awarded their degrees, celebrating the successful conclusion of their studies and entry into the workforce. Students were congratulated by Jerusalem Mayor Mr. Nir Barkat, Council for Higher Education Director-General Dr. Avital Stein, College Chair Mr. David Brodet, and College President Prof. Bertold Fridlender.



College President Prof. Bertold Fridlender congratulates two graduates

## Introducing Dr. Simcha Rozen, newly appointed Dean of Students



Simcha Rozen was born and raised in Petach Tikvah. Following her service in the IDF, she enrolled at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where she earned her bachelor's degree in Physics and master's degree in Applied Physics. Dr. Rozen joined the teaching staff of the College's Department of Computer Science in 2000 and served as its coordinator until 2010. While teaching at the

College, and with the College's support, she continued on to complete a doctorate in the History and Philosophy of Science for which she was awarded the Hebrew University's Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities. She begins her tenure as Dean of Students from the start of the 2013/14 academic year.

Dr. Rozen is married; the mother of three children; and a member of Kibbutz Beit Nir.

### How do you envisage your role as Dean of Students?

*Although my parents did not have the opportunity to acquire higher education, they encouraged their children to do so. As a student I had to work and support myself. I therefore appreciate the needs, concerns, and expectations of our College's students, the majority of whom are the first generation in their family to earn a college degree. It is therefore key that the Dean of Students advances the College's mission to provide educational opportunities to all in society with studies that will lead to a satisfying career. We also need to ensure that our students are provided all the support they need to succeed in their studies while maintaining a student-friendly environment on campus.*

*Many of our students come from challenging socio-economic backgrounds, and need to work while studying to finance their tuition and living costs. It is vital that we can provide these students with scholarship assistance so that they can devote the time needed for their studies.*

### What are the challenges ahead for the office of the Dean of Students?

*Hadassah College has a very multicultural student body including Israelis from all backgrounds (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) and new immigrants from around the world. For many students, the experience to study at a College can be stressful. It is therefore important that every student feel comfortable and at-home on campus, and that the Dean of Students office, together with the College's academic*

*departments, fosters an environment of mutual respect and tolerance on campus.*

*While many of the College's students already volunteer in our community outreach programs, I would like to interest even more students to become involved. These wonderful volunteer opportunities not only contribute to society and teach leadership skills, but also allow the students to be exposed to others with whom they would not necessarily interact or meet. Once students become involved in the community, they are often motivated to continue to volunteer even after they complete their degree.*

*The staff of the Dean of Students' office is both professional and caring. My intention is that our office will continue to be an open, friendly, and welcoming address for all our students ... a place at which they can find support and a listening ear.*

*In thinking about the tasks ahead, I hope we can create an atmosphere in which our students will want to continue to learn after they receive their degree as well as maintain an ongoing link with the College through our new Alumni Association.*

## New gifts, new opportunities

Many of the College's initiatives and programs could not be made possible without the philanthropic support of College friends in Israel and around the world. The task to identify and interest donors rests with Shimon Arbel, Director for Institutional Advancement.

A fourth-generation Canadian, Arbel immigrated to Israel in 1973 and earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the Hebrew University. His 30 year career in resource development has included senior positions at the Hebrew University and the Technion, and as Executive Director of the US-Israel (Fulbright) Educational Foundation.

Since joining the College in 2010, Arbel has been the catalyst for a number of new initiatives. Arbel comments, "The College offers a real opportunity for individuals wishing to partner in the advancement of Israel and Jerusalem to make a meaningful and lasting difference. We look forward to reaching out and involving alumni and Israeli donors in support of the College while continuing to foster the wonderful and critical support from friends around the world".



## Forging ties with overseas institutions

Faculty-led groups from four different overseas universities visited Hadassah Academic College during the spring semester for seminars in Politics and Communication.

The College hosted students from Bochum University in the Ruhr area of Germany for a seminar in politics. This followed an earlier visit by eight HAC students to Bochum at which the students presented academic papers.

A group of undergraduate and graduate students from the University of South Florida visited the College in late May for a seminar related to homeland security. These USF students are being prepared for future careers to serve in the diplomatic corps and are expected to have a positive impact on US future foreign policy.

Prof. Lori Lefkowitz, Director of Northeastern University's Jewish Studies Program led a group of undergraduate students to the College for a one-month seminar as part of that university's "Dialogue of Civilizations" summer study abroad program.

Students from UC Davis-University of California visited the College in June within the framework of that institutions' summer study abroad seminar.

## "Bild" Magazine features student creation

**Mr. Ittai Kirshenbaum**, a student of Universal Industrial Design designed an original multi-use chair within the framework of his undergraduate degree studies.

The Chair offers four separate and different functions. It may be adapted as a regular chair for individual seating; as a rocking chair; as a beach chair; or as a love seat.

Ittai was invited to display his chair at the recent "Room and Style 2013" international fair held in Dresden, Germany which featured innovative exhibits of furniture from around the world. The chair was featured by the leading German "Bild" magazine as one of the five most highly rated creations at the fair.



## HAC student participates in UN Global Young Leaders Summit

**Ms. Danya Avner**, a student of Photographic Communications was selected to participate in the Israeli student delegation to the United Nation's Global Young Leaders Summit held in New York City.

Ms. Avner attended the Summit together with another three Israeli students from IMUNA, the Israel Model UN Association.

The four-day Global Young Leaders Summit hosted 600 students from leading universities and colleges from around the world during which they assumed the role of Ambassadors and UN representatives to discuss global issues. The Israeli delegation was awarded the top prize for their presentation of UN committee procedures.



Danya Avner (left) and members of the Israel delegation.

## HAC student develops new hearing device

**Ms. Mor Schwarzberg**, a student of Inclusive Industrial Design has created a new instrument by which the hearing impaired can experience music and film.



The "ALTO" device translates voice waves to vibrations allowing those with hearing difficulties to feel and experience music, film, and concerts. Schwarzberg's invention was featured on Israel's primetime national television "Network Two".

## The Leven Fellows meet the Program's Founder

Over 50 first and second year students enrolled in the College's Michael A. and Andrea Leven Fellowship program had an opportunity to meet the program's founder during a visit to Israel in late May.



Michael Leven (right) with program coordinators Yael Lezmi (center) and Tzofit Chaim.

Michael Leven is the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation. Michael and Andrea Leven established their Fellowship program to assist and advance promising students in their undergraduate studies. Each Leven Fellow is the first in his/her family to pursue a college degree. In addition to their studies, Fellows commit to volunteer in a number of community service organizations including helping students with homework at Jerusalem inner city schools and providing care to seniors.

## Newly elected members of the Board

Three distinguished members were elected in June 2013 to serve on the College's governing Board of Trustees. Dr. Marc Abitbol is President and CEO of Luneau Technology, an optical R&D firm with offices in Israel and France. Dr. Abitbol is also an alumnus of the College. Mr. Shimon Behar is President and CEO of Soflex Contact Lens Ltd., an international manufacturer based in northern Israel. Mr. Gary Goldberg is a respected leader in the Canadian Jewish community who is active in strengthening ties between Canada and Israel. He is President of Gadango Inc., a private investment company and serves on the Business Board of the University of Toronto's Governing Council.

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## Ilse Gluckstadt Student Lounge

A bright and well furnished lounge for students to enjoy between studies was dedicated on June 19, 2013 in the presence of faculty, students, and staff. In thanking Ilse Gluckstadt of Carmiel, Israel for her gift, College President Prof. Bertold Fridlender commented, "Until today, our students lacked a pleasant and inviting area in which to meet and relax between studies. Our dear friend Ilse Gluckstadt wisely recognized this need, and we are grateful for her thoughtfulness and generosity".



Ilse Gluckstadt and Prof. Bertold Fridlender

## College opens Career Counseling Center

Thanks to the generous support of the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation (Israel), the College has opened a Career Counseling Center to provide both personal and group guidance to students and alumni. The Center offers counseling on all aspects in applying to potential employers, from identifying career opportunities to



Center Director Hagit Freeman (left) advising a student.

composing a resume and interview successfully. The Center also aims to strengthen the College's ties with industry, thus fulfilling its mission to provide well-trained professionals.

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