

JCT Perspective

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A helping hand to get a foot in the door

JCT helps ease the transition of students
from academy to industry



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COMMENTARY



Shalom!

"The institute I envision has as its raison d'être to educate students who see the synthesis of Jewish values and a profession as their way of life; to provide manpower for Israel's developing hi-tech industry and who will establish industries of their own; to produce industrial leaders strongly committed to Israel, a Jewish way of life, and the betterment of the Jewish People and the world."

These words written by the late Prof. Ze'ev Lev, the founding President of the Jerusalem College of Technology, still have meaning for us today, as they stress our central role in developing the industrial strength of Israel by emphasizing the applied aspect of our educational curricula.

Since our beginnings, JCT has always had a commitment to professional excellence, instilling in our students the motivation and responsibility needed to advance in Israel's technological world. We have concentrated our teaching in the scientific fields where we believe Israel has an advantage in its economic development – electro-optics, medical technology, information technology and microelectronics. Other areas such as accounting, business administration and nursing are professional areas in great demand in Israel today and in the foreseeable future. All these educational areas are linked to an environment at JCT that encourages entrepreneurial advancement.

The feature article in this issue of *JCT Perspective* touches on the many ways JCT helps its students and graduates move from the world of academics to the world of industry. The President of the University of California, Mark Yudoff, likes to say, "I am in the opportunity business," giving thousands of students the opportunity to receive a university education. We at JCT can follow his example by also declaring that we are in the opportunity business, the business of creating opportunities for our students and graduates to enter and participate in Israel's industrial and economic development.

In addition to the many programs we have developed to help our students and graduates find employment, we are currently moving forward in two additional directions: the establishment of an industry-academic forum between our faculty and industrial scientific and management leaders, who will focus its discussions on what the future areas in the world of hi-tech will be in the next 10 to 20 years so that we can develop educational curricula in these future areas; and the involvement of additional adjunct professors from industry who will give courses on these newest technologies and directions so that our students can be involved in the cutting-edge areas of Israel's future scientific and technological development.

My best wishes to all our friends throughout the world for a happy and kosher Pesach.

Reuven Surkis

Senior Vice President – Development

CONTENTS

COMMENTARY	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
THE THREE PARTNERS OF REDEMPTION	4
JCT NEWS	6
THE LIFE-SAVING SIMULATOR	8
JCT'S NEW PRESIDENT	11
A HELPING HAND TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR	14
FACULTY PROFILE	18
GRADUATE PROFILE	19
JCT 40 TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER	20
ON CAMPUS	22
GLOBAL NEWS	23



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,
Shalom U'vracha!

As Pesach approaches, my thoughts are directed to our nation's historical beginnings and the significance of our journey through the millennia until the present day. The events that the Jewish People experienced and the consequences of these encounters were those that have shaped our nation into who we are today, while obliging us to ensure its continued existence for future generations.

The concepts of transition and tradition are key elements of Pesach – transitions from being a nation of slaves to becoming the People of Israel and from leaving Egypt until 40 years later reaching their final destination. Yet this arrival in their homeland was not the end of their journey but a beginning, requiring of them to build a society based on Jewish values and traditions in order to survive. It is these traditions that were passed down to us, that guarantee our connection to the same values and ethics of old. We are all part of a chain, affected by the links that precede us and affecting the links ahead of us. We are entrusted with the responsibility to remember where we came from, who we are and how we can best pass on these traditions to our children and our children's children.

In my new position as President of this special institution that embodies academia and Jewish values, I look back to the founders and former presidents who established and built JCT, and I stand in awe. The dream of a handful of men with a vision has become a reality in just 40 years. JCT continues to grow and expand both physically and academically, producing increasing numbers of top-caliber graduates who have been educated to incorporate Jewish ethical values within all aspects of their lives. I am honored to have been chosen to continue the labor of those who have preceded me, and I pray to the Almighty that I will succeed in further advancing the Jerusalem College of Technology to newer and wider horizons for the good of our students, present and future, and for the benefit of Israel and the Jewish People.

Among the challenges we face today is ensuring that our graduates find employment within their fields. As you will read in this issue, JCT has invested many resources to help them find positions in Israel's workforce and make an important contribution to the country's economy. In addition, through their own ethical standards, they inspire better conduct among their colleagues. With that in mind, we continue to seek additional companies with which to build ties, and we turn to our friends and supporters to help us find new opportunities to achieve this objective.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and kosher Pesach and hope that I will have the pleasure of meeting you in the near future.

Prof. Noah Dana-Picard

THE THREE PARTNERS OF REDEMPTION

By Rabbi Menachem Akerman

This essay seeks to examine some of the many parallels between the events that transpired in the time of the Exodus and those of our current day.

The Gemara (Ketubot 117a) says that the exile of the Jewish people will only come to an end when three oaths sworn by Hashem expire - that the Jews may not rebel against the Gentiles, that the Jews may not come to Israel "as a wall" – i.e., a group – and that the Gentiles may not overly oppress the Jews.

The Maharal of Prague explains that these oaths are actually laws of history decreed by Hashem so that the exile would not end before the Jews achieved the goals that Hashem had set forth for them. This is similar to two lovers who are attracted to each other but who understand that they must be apart for a certain period of time. They must set up boundaries that will prevent them from meeting each other until the appointed time. In our case, the two lovers are the Jews and their homeland. This idea is beautifully expressed in the *Song of Songs* (8:4): "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem: Why should ye awaken, or stir up love, until it please?"

Why are three oaths necessary? Each of the three is focused on a different participant. The Jews swear not to rebel against the Gentiles, the Gentiles swear not to oppress them and, finally, Hashem swears to Himself that the Jews may not come "as a wall." In other words, Hashem takes an oath that there cannot be a de facto conclusion to the exile whereby the Jews return to their land without the full process of Divine redemption. From here we can understand that the entire historical process of exile and redemption cannot be truly understood without taking into account the role of the Jews, the Gentiles, and Hashem. A typical example from our own generation is the Holocaust. Sometimes people question where Hashem was during that terrible time. Others ask what the Jews could possibly have done to deserve such a punishment. Both of these approaches fail to take into account the Nazis' role in the devastation and they certainly do not integrate the role of all three participants. Let us return to the exile in Egypt. An entire civilization changed



from being a close ally of the Jews (during Joseph's reign) into a tyrannous enslaver, seemingly overnight. "A new king arose, who knew not of Joseph." Similarly, how are we to understand Hashem's apparent absence, as the Torah informs us that only after 210 years of slavery "He heard the groans of the Children of Israel."? And what, indeed, was Israel's sin to deserve this punishment?

Let us focus on one aspect of salvation. Even when the time for redemption has come, we find that there are still difficulties along the way. Firstly, for Pharaoh and the Egyptians: The script could have been written quite differently. Imagine Pharaoh and the Egyptians understanding the Jews' right to return to their land and even assisting them in their enterprise as Darius of Persia had done at the time of the construction of the Second Temple. Here we see quite the opposite: The fear "lest they emerge from the land" led the Egyptians to enslave the Jews and attempt to throw the male children into the Nile. And the price that the Egyptians were made to pay was the complete destruction of their civilization through 10 plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea.

This can be compared to a woman having difficulty giving birth, where her life must be sacrificed to allow the child to be born. The story of the Exodus can serve to show the importance of the Gentiles' assisting the Jewish people – for their sake. But we can also understand how difficult it must be for Gentiles to accept the radical, historic transformation underway. Examples from recent history where Gentiles attempted – by the most unthinkable means – to block the redemption of the Jews include the White Book, Nazism and the Palestinian revolt. But redemption was also a challenge for the Jews, who had everything to gain from the move. They "could not bear to listen to Moses because of their shortness of breath and heavy toil." The Jews had difficulty giving up the habits of hundreds of years of exile, even such as the toil and hardships of Egypt. This is the only way to understand how, even 40 years later, they still

Continued on page 12

The Perot Ha'Ilan Scholarship Fund

A moving ceremony took place at Machon Lev on 11 Cheshvan 5770, the **yahrzeit of Major Ilan Raiz z"l**, whose family has established the Perot Ha'Ilan (Fruits of Ilan) Scholarship Fund in his memory. The fund will award scholarships every year to outstanding students of the Ethiopian community studying at JCT in the Atuda (pre-military) academic program prior to serving in the IDF in their chosen professions.

Lea (Lali) Raiz, Ilan's widow, together with her parents, **Bella and Meir Steiner**, established the scholarship fund and in a short period of time have succeeded in raising major gifts for it. Among major contributors are **Jack Lahav** (founder of IMPACT! – Academic Scholarships for Combat Soldiers); **Ness Technologies**; **IDB Investment Group**; **Elbit Systems**; **Derech-Eretz Highways**; and the **South African Zionist Federation**. At this year's ceremony 18 scholarships were awarded, 16 of them to students from the Ethiopian community.

Ilan, himself an Atuda graduate, devoted his professional life to research and development as an officer in the IDF. He helped develop a system that enables combat forces on the battlefield to receive real-time updates via computer. Ilan was widely praised for the system's performance capability. Family and friends spoke profusely of Ilan's personality, of his special combination of Torah and science, his dedication to Am Israel and his devotion to his family. A movie on Ilan's short yet prolific life provided the audience with a deeper sense of the great loss incurred by his untimely death.

The audience was moved to tears when Ilan's daughter Shira (five) read a poignant poem to Abba, when his sons Itai (10) and Arel (eight) recited Kaddish and when Jack Lahav held little Michael (two) while awarding the scholarships.

JCT President Prof. Noah Dana-Picard thanked the

family and friends for the noble way they chose to perpetuate Ilan's memory.

The evening ended with an address by a representative of the students, who thanked the donors and praised JCT's unique combination of Torah and Derech Eretz that permeates both the Beit Midrash and the academic studies and guides him in his daily life.



Meir Steiner and Jack Lahav



Jack Lahav and the Raiz children awarding Perot Ha'Ilan scholarships

IN MEMORIAM



Avi Segev z"l JCT faculty and students were greatly saddened by the sudden passing of Avi Suliman Segev, a senior lecturer in JCT's Technology Marketing and Management Department. Utilizing his natural talents and inquisitive personality to the fullest, Avi developed a unique area of expertise that combined technological innovations with financing.

Avi recently completed his doctorate at Ben-Gurion University. His thesis was considered groundbreaking by international standards, as he researched and integrated different disciplines that had not been methodically investigated before.

JCT mourns the loss of a promising scholar, dear friend, esteemed lecturer and man of values. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Ruti, also a staff member at JCT, and to their sons, Dror (11) and Shay (7).

May his memory be blessed.

JCT Goes Green



As part of its efforts to contribute to a better environment, JCT is making major strides to ensure savings in energy and water and to encourage recycling on its campuses.

Low-flow aerators have been attached to all faucets at JCT, resulting in a 20% saving in water usage, while recycling bins for cans, bottles and batteries have been placed throughout the campuses. Proceeds from the return of the cans will be used to help fund special projects.

B-Solar, a solar cell start-up company based at JCT, is developing and manufacturing photovoltaic (PV) bifacial, silicon solar cells that can provide 15-20% more energy per dollar than conventional solar cells. The company is currently carrying out experiments using several solar panels placed on the roof of one of Machon Lev's buildings.

Three of B-Solar's founders are JCT's **Prof. Naftali Eisenberg**, **Dr. Lev Kreinin** and **Dr. Ninel Bordin**. Prof. Eisenberg founded and led the photovoltaic solar energy center and the non-conventional optics laboratory at JCT and, together with his colleagues Dr. Kreinin and Dr. Bordin, turned the center into a leading university laboratory in the field of silicon-based solar cells. **Avishai Drori**, a graduate of the Jerusalem College of Technology and veteran of Israel's hi-tech industry, is B-Solar's Director of Product Management.

JCT is currently looking for donors to help it purchase additional solar panels to place on the roofs of the Machon Lev Dormitory Pavilions that will provide 100% of the buildings' energy needs.



BSolar experimental panels on a Machon Lev rooftop

IMPACT! Scholarships for JCT Students

• Some 80 JCT students who have previously served as combat soldiers in the IDF are currently receiving IMPACT! Scholarships. Established in 2002, the IMPACT! Scholarship program was created as an initiative of Friends of the IDF in the US. The program's goal is to provide discharged combat soldiers from low-income families the opportunity to attend an institute of higher education. Students receive \$4,000 a year toward tuition fees and other expenses, and the grant is given for the duration of studies (up to four years). In return, they are required, for the duration of their studies, to do 130 hours of voluntary community service each year and are in regular contact with their sponsors.



IMPACT! students volunteering at a retirement home

Chanuka Gathering for Machon Lev Alumni

• On Chanuka, a celebration was held in Petach Tikva that was attended by more than 50 Machon Lev graduates and their wives. Speakers included **Rav Natan Bar Chaim**; **Rav Yaacov Goldberg** of Machon Lev's Beit Midrash, who regularly gives shiurim to graduates; and **Rav Yeshayahu Deutsch**, a JCT graduate who has been giving a weekly shiur in *Gemara* to graduates in Petach Tikva for some 20 years.

Shiurim for graduates of Machon Lev are held weekly in Jerusalem, Petach Tikva, Tel Aviv, Bat Yam and Elad. In addition, there is a special gathering before the High Holidays with Rav Natan Bar Chaim, the head of the Beit Midrash at Machon Lev.

Yeshar koach to **Chaim Goldstein**, a JCT graduate who organizes these events and shiurim.

Graduate News



- **Natalie Fardian**, 22, who is currently studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for her MSc degree in applied physics was recently awarded the Alexander Wulkan MSc Fellowship in Applied Physics for the academic year 2009-2010.

Since childhood, growing up in Los Angeles, California, Natalie dreamed of being a scientist. She was always fascinated by math and science. At the age of 10, she and her family moved to Israel. In high school, she majored in physics with outstanding achievements.

After completing National Service in Jerusalem, she studied for her BSc degree in medical engineering at JCT's Machon Tal. Natalie was on the dean's list for excellence during all her years of undergraduate studies and received the Rector's Prize for 2009. Her BSc research project was entitled "Photo-Plethysmography with a Separating Medium between the Tissue and Device." In the last year of her BSc studies, she was a teacher's assistant for basic undergraduate courses in math and physics.



Navy Commander Award for Creative Thinking

- Three JCT graduates were recently awarded The Navy Commander's Award for Creative Thinking. **Lieutenant-Colonel Shmuel Ben Ezra** (awarded second year running), **Major Arnon Egozi**, and **Major Yotam Varshevsky** were honored at a special Israel Navy ceremony in Haifa.



Beit Midrash Renovations

- All 720 seats in Machon Lev's Beit Midrash were recently refurbished thanks to a campaign among JCT alumni. A donation was also made by **Mrs. Anne Lehmann** of New York for the construction of the bima in the center of the Beit Midrash.



Masters Programs Begin at JCT

- JCT's new MBA program opened with 85 students. Some of them are graduates of JCT, and others have studied in other institutes. The program will combine ethics and morals from the Jewish aspect with business management in the changing global reality of today. A MSc degree in telecommunications software engineering is to open next semester.

Opportunities for Electronic Engineers

- International Board of Governors member **Att. Sanford Colb** recently hosted final-year students and recent graduates of the Electronic Engineering Department, where they met with heads of hi-tech companies **Zenithsolar**, **Eliachar Technologies**, **Lightech**, **Varcode**, **Golner**, **Verisense**, **Rainbow Medical** and **MomTec**. At the meeting, the participants presented their final-year projects, and several were subsequently invited for job interviews.

Students Win Top Prizes in National Accounting Examinations

- The Institute of Certified Public Accountants recently awarded medals to two Machon Tal students for their achievements in the national final accountancy examinations. **Odelia Bardugo-Dahan** came first out of 1,293 students in the Auditing examination and received a gold medal.

Miriam Toubali came third in the Financial Accounting exam and received a bronze medal. The medals were awarded at a ceremony for newly licensed accountants, attended by Justice Minister Yaacov Neeman.

The Life-saving Simulator



You drive at your leisure and enjoy the breathtaking view before your eyes. The smell of spring wafts through your open window, with its gentle breeze caressing your face. Simply a pleasure. Suddenly the road twists and before you can react, the car swerves off the road and rolls down in the direction of a nearby ditch. Your heart skips a beat and you suddenly feel yourself being hurled forward. And then silence. You imagine the worst and slowly open your eyes. But something strange has happened here. You look around and everything seems normal. What's more, you feel no pain as if nothing out of the ordinary has happened. Was this a dream? No. Was it reality? Not exactly...

You remove the helmet from your head and quickly survey the room you are in. You are surprised to discover that it looks the same as it did before you left on your journey. You also haven't moved from your original position. You look around the empty room and ask yourself, "Where am I?"

You are startled when you hear someone answer, "We call this virtual reality." You were so engrossed in this virtual reality that you completely forgot that you were not alone in the room. The simulator's operator, who had been standing at the back of the room, approaches you. He gives you a broad smile and says, "The quality of the simulator is measured by the level of your involvement in the virtual reality. You have now proven to me that our simulator is highly successful."

This scene is not quite reality but it is indeed possible, and the preliminary version already exists at JCT. For several years, **Dr. Moti Reiff** and **Dr. Yehuda Badichi** have been developing a system to improve driving skills using the technology of virtual reality.

Serious road accidents are reported daily in Israel, and society pays a high price. Every week we hear about the high number of deaths on the road and the number of deaths from the beginning of the year until now. The death toll usually reaches the hundreds, not to mention the thousands

of injuries. This painful subject is what motivated Dr. Reiff, Head of the Dept. of Computer Science, and Dr. Badichi of the Dept. of Industrial Engineering and Management to look for a way to reduce the number of road fatalities.

Dr. Badichi's experience in the IDF working with simulators for the Ground Forces gave him the idea to develop a simulator that will allow drivers to improve their driving skills and prepare them to cope with scenarios that they have as yet not encountered on the road. Simulators have been in existence in the IDF for many years, as well as in the aviation industry and space research institutes, and in other areas where complex systems are developed. Companies that manufacture automobiles are also aided by simulators to carry out tests on safety and reliability. However, no technology has yet been developed that will enable one to conceptualize the reality and experience the risk involved when driving and can then be etched into one's consciousness.

"I come from an area of ergonomics, and Moti comes from the area of computers," says Dr. Badichi. "Together we have looked into the technology that exists today, and we have seen that the potential for this technology definitely exists in this field."

Adds Dr. Reiff, "The knack is to combine the skill with the need!"

Together they embarked on a comprehensive study to examine the advantages of a training system that is based on virtual reality (VR) as opposed to other training systems. There are other computerized training systems for drivers in which the user sits opposite a computer screen and "drives" using a steering wheel and pedals. The main problem with this standard system is that usually the driver does not feel "obligated" toward the demands of the exercise because he does not feel that he is in a real situation.

For this research, the researchers have built a virtual reality environment that includes a specially designed computer system with accompanying equipment such as a helmet and steering wheel, a driving control system and an audio system. This soundproof and light-controlled laboratory has been established on the campus of Machon Lev. Besides the hardware required, they also developed a software computer program to activate these simulated surroundings, which includes virtual graphic elements such as roads and scenery and, of course, the dashboard of the vehicle. In addition, they have acquired a graphic engine that will speed up simulator development and model design.

To connect all these components together, the two researchers looked for a programmer to write the computer code for activating the simulator. **Oren David Yisraeli**, a computer science student at JCT, was recruited for this

position. Within a few months, he developed the first prototype for the system, focusing on developing a computer program through which different driving scenarios could be created.

The main innovation of this simulator is its ability to combine the laws of physics with actual driving experiences on the road. Since its goal is to imitate reality, it is of the utmost importance to create as realistic an experience as possible for the person driving the vehicle. The simulator has not been designed to teach one to drive or to improve one's driving habits but to place the driver in extreme driving scenarios without the risk attached so that he can learn how to best drive in these situations. Possible scenarios can be faulty roads, sudden changes in routes, pedestrians stepping into the road, extreme weather conditions and low visibility or a vehicle that is overtaking in the opposite direction. Through experiencing these situations, the driver can improve his ability to recognize oncoming danger and his ability to react as required. If the driver is given the simulated experience of a traumatic event such as a car crash, it may reduce his tendency to take unnecessary risks such as overtaking or speeding.

On completion of the prototype, 40 Machon Lev students were asked to compare the virtual reality exercise to traditional teaching methods of driving safety. The findings confirmed the advantages of a virtual reality environment. The learning pace was typically faster, and the extent of digression from the track during the exercise was lower. When the testers were asked



Dr. Moti Reiff, Dr. Yehuda Badichi and Oren David Yisraeli

about their personal feeling regarding the exercise, many said that the virtual reality exercise made it a more compelling assignment for them. Some even said that the exercise made them feel as if they were really driving.

The cost of designing an advanced system of virtual reality is very high. Dr. Badichi explains that upgrading popular computer games is not an option, as they are not educational and are the antithesis of what they are striving to do. "In computer games, the goal is to run over pedestrians and to crash into other vehicles, and for that the driver receives extra points! That is a negative learning process that badly affects the quality of driving. In addition, computer games do not pretend to characterize reality. On the contrary, all the existing dangers in driving on the road are not apparent. The aim of the game is to give the player an emotional experience by driving in a non-realistic way, which causes a distortion in the ability to judge and in the natural tendency to be cautious," he says.

"The simulator, on the other hand," he continues, "is based on realistic driving according to proper driving rules and regulations. The outcome of every action that the driver is involved with is in accordance with a real situation on the road. The virtual reality demonstrates the effects of his behavior on the road and the consequences of his actions. This is a completely different perception to that of a computer game."

There are still many improvements that they hope to add to the driving experience, such as a seat to simulate the

movements of the vehicle with turns, vibrations, ascents and descents, and more professional helmets that contain small screens that integrate into a more realistic built-in picture. They also plan to improve the graphics and add characteristics that are connected to the other senses besides sight and sound, such as taste and smell. "Maybe one day we will be able to even feel the wind on our faces when we open the 'window' of the simulator," says Dr. Badichi.

Dr. Reiff and Dr. Badichi are dependent on research grants for their progress and are making every effort to raise the funds needed to develop and enhance the simulator.

In the next stage of the study, they aim to prove that training in a simulator is as effective as experiencing a real situation. This, of course, is a lot more difficult to prove.

There are too many accidents today that are caused due to lack of caution. There is a lack of awareness in extreme situations, and many drivers do not have the experience to deal with such situations. Dr. Reiff believes that if drivers are given the opportunity to experience these situations in the safety of a VR laboratory, they will drive with more caution, and there will be an improvement in driving conduct.

Dr. Badichi doesn't aim to teach drivers how to drive but to help them identify driving situations and respond accordingly. The more quickly a driver can identify a problem and the more familiar he is with the best way to respond, the better will be the response. Then, it is hoped, the weekly reports of traffic accidents will be greatly reduced.



Imagination comes to reality

Virtual reality (VR) is a computer-simulated environment that enables the user to be part of an illusion in a different location to that in which he is in reality. As the perceptual surrounding becomes more realistic, so the illusion intensifies and causes a deeper immersion into VR. To reach the optimal effect, many characteristics from the real surroundings are implemented into VR using three-dimensional images and sensory information such as sound through speakers or headphones or tactile stimulation. For example, when a person wearing a VR helmet turns his head, he will see an updated picture on the screen in the helmet just like in reality, as opposed to the picture he would see on a standard computer screen that is static and displays a two-dimensional picture.

Thanks to the advanced technology that exists today, we are witnessing the development of virtual reality that attracts us and draws us toward the world of illusion and make-believe, a world where we experience an elevation of our senses. What do you think about parachuting without fear? Or bungee jumping? Would you like to land on the moon? This is closer than we think. And we are left with one more question: Will the day come when we are unable to tell the difference between our imaginary world and our reality?

JCT's New President

Prof. Noah Dana-Picard



In October 2009 **Prof. Noah Dana-Picard** became the fifth President of the Jerusalem College of Technology. Following his aliya from Nice, France, in 1984, Prof. Dana-Picard joined the College in 1991 as a mathematics teacher in the newly established Mechina (pre-academic program) for overseas immigrants. He subsequently became a full-time lecturer and in 2006 was chosen to head the Department of Applied Mathematics.

“To learn is not only to collect information and knowledge but also to think and watch, to be inculcated with good values and integrity and, above all, to be moral human beings”

Prof. Dana-Picard has two PhDs – one from Nice University and one from Bar-Ilan. Following the completion of his PhD at Bar-Ilan, he conducted post-doctoral studies at Ben-Gurion University and has published numerous articles on algebra, geometry and mathematics education. He sits on the review board of several prestigious journals and has carried out research with several academic institutions in Israel, including the Weizmann Institute and the University of Haifa.

Prof. Dana-Picard personifies the combination of Torah and science with strong leadership qualities. As well as educating the next generation of engineers in the field of mathematics, he gives a number of weekly

Torah classes and is a frequent guest lecturer in a popular Friday Kollel program in the Jerusalem area.

Having completed the first six months of his tenure, Prof. Dana-Picard sees himself as an emissary, standing at the helm of a noble ship on which each and every one at JCT plays an important role.

“The students come to study, and we expect them to study diligently. To learn is not only to collect information and knowledge but also to think and watch, to be inculcated with good values and integrity and, above all, to be moral human beings. JCT is not only an institution of higher education but also an educational institution. Similarly, staff members are expected to fulfill their duty in the best way they can, be it teaching, managing departments, providing services to students or giving technical support – always keeping in mind that we are role models for our students.”

Prof. Dana-Picard has great admiration for his predecessor, Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer, who during his 16-year tenure oversaw major changes and expansion at JCT. The President intends to continue to maintain JCT's achievements, while at the same time undertaking the enormous task of setting goals and priorities to increase JCT's spheres of activity. Among his objectives, he wants to expand the number of masters programs offered at JCT and increase the

quantity and quality of research at the College.

"Although JCT is modest in size in comparison to other universities, it is our aspiration to grow and to be among the leaders in many areas. There are fields in which we already are in the top league, and we hope to attain that level in other spheres as well," he says.

Prof. Dana-Picard notes major differences between his academic experiences in France and those at JCT. "France is a country that separates religion and state, and its universities advocate the classic academic position -- teaching, research and questioning everything. Although I was privileged to learn a great deal at university, it was not there that I learned to be a good and moral human being, and it was not there that I learned Torah."

Prof. Dana-Picard believes that the well-known dictum of "Torah with *Derech Eretz*" does not refer to two coexisting entities but that both must interact within us at all times. "It



Prof. Noah Dana-Picard with Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer

is our duty to live a life of Torah, and our professional life is an integral part of this. At JCT we lay the foundations for the students' value systems and pave the way for their future lives. When they leave JCT, they go on to help build the State of Israel by joining its workforce, contributing to Israel's economy and to the community as a whole. My sincere hope is that through these foundations, our graduates will always feel a connection to JCT. To paraphrase a well-known saying, 'Once a JCTer, always a JCTer.' I hope that the students who studied here over the years, be it at Machon Lev, Naveh, Tal or Lustig, will maintain that connection and feeling of belonging. I hope that JCT will always be their home."

The 55-year-old President lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Carole, who heads the Department for French Immigrants at the Ministry of Absorption. They have four children and 11 grandchildren.



Prof. Noah Dana-Picard addressing students on the opening day of the academic year

THE THREE PARTNERS OF REDEMPTION

Continued from page 4

would say, "Let us turn our heads and return to Egypt" or "We remember the free fish we would eat in Egypt." And this is the only way of truly understanding the sin of the spies.

Today, we are also witness to the difficulties our nation has encountered turning the dream of salvation into a reality. JCT is one of innumerable examples of Jewish renewal in our time. Situated in Jerusalem, our holy city, it guides students in the path of the Torah, together with educating them in secular fields. And it is a bridge between Israelis and the Jews of the Diaspora.

Let us recall as Pesach comes upon us, how the central lesson of the Seder is that "Each person must view himself as if he had left Egypt." In our generation, every Seder leader must inculcate

in all of those participating that the time has come to no longer say "as if" but to pray to Hashem that we truly be participants in the redemption. As the prophet writes: "Behold, days are approaching, says Hashem, when the people will no longer say, "By God, Who redeemed us from Egypt." They will say, "By God, Who redeemed us from the countries of the North and from all the countries that He banished them to." (Jeremiah 23)

Rabbi Menachem Akerman was born in France and came on aliya in 1976. He served in the Tank Corps of the IDF before studying electronic engineering at Machon Lev. After graduation, Rabbi Akerman served as a Rabbi in Nice, France. In 1994 he returned to Machon Lev and is a Ra'm in the Beit Midrash. Rabbi Akerman lives in Efrat with his wife Emanuelle, a doctor in alternative medicine and their six children.

Henry and Betty Rosenfelder Awards

The annual Henry and Betty Rosenfelder Awards were presented this year to outstanding researcher Dr. Salman Noach and outstanding lecturers Dr. Jacob Itin and Attorney Vered Korach Shriki.

Dr. Salman Noach is carrying out research into high-power solid-state lasers. His activity in this field includes an investigation of new laser crystals and the design of a new laser system based on a combination of these crystals. The novelty of this approach is that it is based on a design that he hopes will significantly increase laser efficiency and decrease or eliminate the need for a cooling system due to the self-heat transfer mechanism that develops in the solid-state crystals. For this research he is establishing a new laboratory for solid-state laser, funded by the Ministry of Defense, associated industries, and the R&D Fund at JCT. Dr. Noach is also doing research in diffractive optics and adaptive micro-optical elements with other researchers at JCT.

As part of JCT's close connection with the electro-optics industry, Dr. Noach designed and developed a new course at JCT entitled "Advanced Optical Design" for optical designers dealing with this field in the optical industry. The course was planned after JCT learned of the industry's needs. The course instructors are high-level lecturers in this field, most of them JCT graduates. The variety of companies that has sent participants is impressive.

Dr. Noach was born in Israel in 1966. After completing his military service, he studied electro-optics at JCT and went on to obtain an MSc and a PhD from the Hebrew University. He has been a member of JCT's Electro-Optics Department since 2003.

Dr. Jacob Itin, a lecturer in the Mathematics Department at JCT, made aliya in 1993 from the USSR. He obtained a PhD in mathematics from the Hebrew University in 1998. He has been lecturing at JCT since 2006 and in a short period of time has made an impact both as a lecturer and a researcher in the fields of general relativity and classical field theory.

Dr. Itin has been praised by students for his excellent teaching skills – presenting and teaching the material clearly, being readily available to students, and taking a genuine and professional interest in his students' problems.

Attorney Vered Korach Shriki studied law at the Hebrew University, where she graduated with distinction in 2003 with a master's degree in law. She has worked in the legal department of the Treasury and in the Ministry of Justice. She has been a lecturer in the Department of Managerial Accounting and Information Systems for the past five years. She teaches courses at Machon Tal in tax law, basic law and employment law. The students are very satisfied with her courses and her professional approach. They appreciate the clarity of her teaching style, her patience and her personal attention to each of her students.

Awards for Outstanding Administrative Staff

were presented to **Sarah Baime**, who was recently appointed Director of Academic Administration. Sarah previously worked in the Public Relations and Registration Departments. In all these positions, she has excelled in her management skills and ability to work under pressure.

Yechiel Ben Pazi, who works in the Information and Registration unit of the Students Administration Department, and **Doris Mohr**, who mans JCT's Reception and Information Desk, were also awarded prizes.



In celebration of the 40th anniversary, a "Life on Campus" photographic competition was held for students at JCT. The contest was sponsored by Mr. David Anisman of Toronto, Canada.



A helping get a foot in the

JCT helps ease the transition of students from academy to industry

By Dan Gerstenfeld

A major problem facing university graduates when they're about to finish school is finding a job. That task is becoming even more challenging in times of economic uncertainty, as there are fewer jobs available. This increased challenge is supported by the findings of a survey conducted earlier this year by the US National Association of Colleges and Employers among 35,000 students from more than 800 colleges and universities. The report indicates that fewer than 20% of recent grads that have applied for positions have succeeded. While similar figures for Israel are unavailable, it is clear that finding work is one of the Israeli student's major concerns and probably the most urgent.

To help its graduates with this difficult task, the Jerusalem College of Technology established a special unit four years ago dedicated specifically to helping graduates enter the job market. The unit, part of the Student Authority, works closely with students and potential employers, assuring that graduates will be able to find a job in their field. "We realized there is a real need to help our graduates in the transition from being a student to becoming a work candidate," says Chaim Rosenfeld, head of the Career Placement and Industrial Ties Department at JCT. "We invest a lot of time and effort

in helping them successfully complete this transition." The department's motto is "From academy to industry," reflecting the shift students must make from sitting in the classroom to becoming employees at some of Israel's most prestigious companies.

The Career Placement and Industrial Ties Department has adopted a strategy based on two major concepts. First, they work closely with the students to prepare them for the next stage in their professional lives. They then move on to building a long-lasting relationship with leading companies that might potentially recruit JCT graduates.

Early start

Rosenfeld says that to succeed in the job market, students must start to focus on building a relationship with future employers as early as possible.

JCT helps students find jobs during their studies, starting as early as their second year on campus. Companies such as Intel and NDS are involved in a project aimed at providing student employment. There, students are committed to work 20 hours a week for four semesters. JCT helps students find jobs and offers participants special workshops dedicated to

success in writing their CVs, job interviews and placement assistance. During the third year of studies, JCT assists students in finding a workplace in a relevant industry, where they will be able to complete their final project. According to Rosenfeld, statistics show that after their studies, 40% will continue to work at the place where they completed the final projects. Usually, students carry out these projects at cutting-edge technology companies such as the Soreq Nuclear Research Center, NDS and Rokar International. In the fourth

hand to door

and final year of study, placement activities intensify. JCT works with three different companies to prepare students for job interviews. Activities include preparation for tests, face-to-face encounters, and psychological and personality tests. As part of this project, JCT subsidizes a two-day workshop dedicated to preparing students to find a job. Hundreds of graduates have already benefited from such workshops, greatly increasing their chances of finding a place of employment.

Recruitment days

Once a student completes his studies, JCT provides him with a wide range of services aimed at helping him find a job. The Career Placement and Industrial Ties Department manages to offer students some 300 job opportunities each year, of which some 50 will eventually be filled by JCT graduates.

JCT organizes special campus recruitment days in which potential employers come to present the company, meet with potential candidates and hold interviews. Participants include some of Israel's largest companies, such as Elbit, Microsoft and Israel Aerospace Industries, as well as accounting

firms such as KPMG, Ernst and Young, Deloitte and BDO. If the department sees that there is a special need for specific training, it provides courses aimed at increasing employment opportunities. One such area was a real need in the market for optic design, so a special seminar on the subject was held and all participants were able to secure a job. A similar course held for Dot Net programmers had similar success.

Avraham Rotnemer, who participated in the optic design course, said he has benefited a lot from it. "The three-month training was very intensive," says Rotnemer, who now works as an independent professional in the optic design field. "The course provided me with professional knowledge and helped me build relations with industry professionals. After the course, I continued to work in this field with Dr. Noah Kalman, who taught the course."

Atidim for Industry

JCT is currently involved in several projects aimed at finding places of employment. One of the main ones is the Atidim for Industry project, which was established in 2002. The project's aim is to build a strong Israeli society by maximizing the human potential found in the periphery of the country to benefit individuals, society and the economy.

The program gives young people whose academic qualifications are suitable but who would be unable to study on their own the opportunity to study at a university or college, to complete their degree in a field in demand by the industrial or business sector in Israel and, in tandem, gain relevant professional exposure and training. Upon completing their studies, graduates are able to begin significant careers and contribute socially and economically to Israel. Participants in the Atidim project, who sometimes come from poor social backgrounds, are "adopted" by large companies, mainly from the technology sector, from as early as the



High-tech entrepreneur, Naftali Bennett addressing JCT graduates and students

beginning of their studies. The idea is for the student to begin working at the company during his studies, complete his final project there and start working for it once he graduates.

Every student in the project must commit to several hours a week at the company. In exchange, he receives a scholarship worth NIS 120,000 over four years. To date, some 50 students from Machon Lev and Tal have participated in the Atidim project. "Those who have entered the project have already secured their future," says Rosenfeld. JCT graduates involved in the project are working in dozens of leading companies and organizations, including Ophir Optronics, ECI, PAGI Bank, ECI Telecom, Ernst and Young and the Israel Police.

Daniel Guttman, who graduated a year and half ago, was the first JCT student to participate in the Atidim program. He is currently studying for a second degree in

"Atidim has opened the world of industry for me, and I am very grateful to Chaim for his efforts. I highly recommend that other JCT students join Atidim as well."

Graduates in uniform

The Israeli army is another place where a large number of JCT graduates are making their mark. More than 200 graduates of JCT are currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), with many of them continuing to serve after they have completed their mandatory service. "Our graduates hold senior positions in the army in top technology units," says Eli Schaalmann, Director of the Office of Students Affairs and Assistant Director General. "For obvious reasons we can't provide all the information, but it is well known that many of our students are involved in key projects in the fields of computers, electronics and electro-optics."

Schaalmann adds that all the IDF's activities in the field of electro-optics are based on teams formed by JCT graduates. "We have maintained very close interaction with the army for decades," Schaalmann continues. "We visit the units, and senior officers come to visit us. When it comes to the army, they view our graduates as equal to those coming out of Israel's top universities."

JCT also employs a Liaison Officer for graduates of the Ethiopians for Engineers program who provides them with guidance and support during their IDF service as well as while seeking work.

Several IDF teams, based solely on JCT graduates, have won prizes for excellence. Just recently, one such team received the IDF's most prestigious prize for creative thinking.



JCT student receiving a laptop from Amir Yagoda, head of Atidim for Industry

feasible physics and is employed as a system engineer at the Jerusalem company Al Cielo, which specializes in integration of laser technologies and navigation and control of inertial sensors. "I started working at Al Cielo when it was still a very young start-up in my second year of studies," Guttman says. "During my studies, I gradually increased the time I spent at the company and completed my final project there and was lucky to grow together with the company." Guttman says he is grateful to JCT and Atidim for the opportunity they offered him. "When Chaim [Rosenfeld] called me first and offered me a chance to join Atidim, I had no idea what it was all about," says Guttman.



JCT's Liaison Officer Adi Yonas with graduates of the Ethiopians for Engineers Program

Impressive Placement Rates

Figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics reveal that graduates who are employed in jobs related to their studies show higher satisfaction rates than those who work in an unrelated job. "On average, some 75% of our graduates find a job in their field of study within three years of their graduation," says Rosenfeld. The rate of employment among different faculty graduates varies according to the field of study and market conditions. According to Rosenfeld, some 95% of those studying in the Accounting Faculty find a place for an internship during their studies, while some 90% of those studying software engineering get a job within six months from graduating. Among those who studied electronics and electro-optics, some 50% manage to find jobs. At the same time, 25% to 40% of those who have studied electronics and physics continue to study for a second degree.



Chaim Rosenfeld, head of the Career Placement and Industrial Ties Department

Ties with the industry

Rosenfeld says that he maintains a close relationship with different companies in sectors relevant to fields of study at JCT. The activity includes organized visits to these companies together with students and faculty members. During such visits, the group meets with the company's CEO, human resource professionals, R&D executives and JCT graduates who are employed at these companies. The meetings focus on recognizing the specific requirements of each company and its future needs. "We are talking about the 'future engineer' with companies," says Rosenfeld. "If we hear from several companies about future trends, we try to build our curriculum accordingly."

The Career Placement and Industrial Ties Department doesn't limit its activities to maintaining close ties with businesses but also takes advantage of JCT graduates employed at various companies to help find employment for those about to graduate.

"We operate a special CRM system with all our graduates' details," says Rosenfeld. "We know where they work, correspond with them on a regular basis and organize special alumni meetings. This allows us to use their assistance to help other graduates."

Rosenfeld adds that JCT graduates have earned the reputation of being very good workers. "Some employers prefer our students. They are considered to be a very loyal and stable workforce," says Rosenfeld. "There is no other academic institution in Israel that works so intensively, and I am sure that our activity bears fruit."

Placement for Haredi Women

One special population of JCT students that has unique job requirements is the haredi women graduates, who complete their studies at the Lustig Institute. To assist them in finding jobs, JCT maintains close relationships with leading accountancy firms and computer companies in order to create a special working environment in which a number of Lustig graduates work together, allowing them to operate in conditions that are specifically tailored to the strict needs of haredi women. For example, accounting firm BDO has opened a special branch in Bnei Brak in which all the accountants employed are Lustig graduates.

Last year, Israel's largest insurance company, Migdal, accepted a group of 14 computer graduates from Lustig, and another group of 10 graduates started working for insurance company Menora. Additionally, JCT offers special computer training courses based on the specific professional requirements of future employers such as Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest banking group, and software house Tevuna. "We discovered that what is most required is on-the-job training," says Rabbi Dr. Zvi Ilani, head of the Lustig Institute. "In this current economic environment, we place special emphasis on raising funds for such training, which takes place at the most critical period in the first three to six months."

Adds Dr. Ilani, "We get very positive feedback from employers who have hired Lustig graduates. They all praise their high level of motivation and work ethics."



Dr. **Moti Reiff** has recently been appointed the head of JCT's Department of Computer Science. He was born in Haifa in 1950. After completing yeshiva high school, he studied for four years at Hebron Yeshiva before serving in the IDF Artillery Brigade as part of the Hesder program. He then went on to earn BSc and MSc degrees in mathematics and a PhD in computer sciences from Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba.

“Computer science has revolutionized the way we live our daily lives in all areas, from entertainment and communication to security and technology, and its influence on society is immeasurable”

Dr. Reiff joined JCT in 1984 as a lecturer in computer science, and between 1984 and 1989 he spent his summers doing research at the IBM Scientific Center in Santa Monica, California.

During the past five years, Dr. Reiff has been in charge of the Computer Science Departments at Machon Tal and Machon Lustig while serving as deputy head of the department. The Computer Science Department is the largest department at JCT and is the first engineering department at JCT to receive approval for a master's degree program. The MSc degree in telecommunication systems engineering, slated to start in the next academic year, is one of the first

advanced degrees of its kind in Israel. The department also offers BSc degrees in computer sciences, software engineering and communication engineering

The BSc in computer science is a basic three-year degree, while the software engineering degree includes a fourth year of study and a final project. The BSc in communication engineering enables students to specialize in technologies related to telephones, cellular phones, computer networks, Internet and satellites. A unique aspect of JCT's communication engineering degree is the focus on software as opposed to electronics or hardware; whereas in other institutions, the degree is taught in electronics departments.

Dr. Reiff notes that the great advances in this department over the last decade were due largely to the efforts of Dr. Chaim Dayan, who headed the department for the last 10 years. It is hoped that the success of the first MSc programs at JCT will lead to the Council of Higher Education's allowing for further degrees to be offered, including a thesis tract. Dr. Reiff sees the growth of his department as a reflection of JCT's mission to produce graduates who can meet the needs of Israel's hi-tech industries.

Dr. Reiff has participated in several research projects, including the driving safety virtual reality simulator project with Dr. Yehuda Badichi (see page 22). For several years he has been holding a weekly *chavruta* learning session with president emeritus Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer in Machon Lev's Beit Midrash.

Dr. Reiff is working hard to ensure that the department stays up to date with the latest knowledge and innovations. “Computer science is a dynamic field that has grown over the past 30 years from programming and word processing to such diverse areas as artificial intelligence, robotics and bioinformatics. It has revolutionized the way we live our daily lives in all areas, from entertainment and communication to security and technology, and its influence on society is immeasurable.”

Dr. Reiff lives with his wife and four children in Kfar Maimon, a moshav in southern Israel.



Aner Ozeri is the CEO of the Atarot Industrial Park, one of Jerusalem's leading commercial centers, situated in the north of the city. The 33-year-old Aner graduated from JCT seven years ago with a degree in accounting and information systems. He is now studying for a master's degree in business administration at the Hebrew University.

Aner was born and raised near the Machon Lev campus in Bayit Vagan. After completing high school and army service, he came to study at Machon Lev, where he was very active in the Student Union.

"Machon Lev has contributed a great deal to my life. The challenge of combining religious studies with secular studies gave me an incredible feeling of satisfaction at the end of each day of classes." Aner believes that his studies at Machon Lev instilled in him a lifestyle that he has continued to develop in his professional life.

Upon completing his studies, Aner worked as an intern with a leading accounting firm. He then went on to open his own accounting company. Three years ago, he was appointed manager of the Atarot Industrial Park, which is the largest industrial park in metropolitan Jerusalem, comprising 180 factories and more than 4,300 employees. The businesses include chemicals, cosmetics, construction and food production.

Aner works closely with various government bodies for the advancement and development of this area, which is growing in popularity and is a driving force for economic growth in Jerusalem and

the country. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, himself an industrialist, is very supportive of industrial expansion in Jerusalem. In the next few years, a total of NIS 50 million will be jointly funded by the government and the Jerusalem City Council for the development of Atarot.

Within the framework of his role at Atarot, Aner is a partner in advancing Israel as a leader in the area of "green tech," developing suitable infrastructures

"Machon Lev has contributed a great deal to my life. The challenge of combining religious studies with secular studies gave me an incredible feeling of satisfaction at the end of each day of classes"

and systems that promote Israel's economic growth. Aner hopes to continue to promote organizations or companies that can make a valuable contribution to the country.

Aner regularly meets with friends from his student days at JCT. He also encounters JCT graduates from other fields through his work, and they often help one another with consultations and networking. Aner says that this desire to help each other is one of the most important values he received from Machon Lev.

"Younger graduates should use us as ambassadors," he says. "New JCT graduates are highly talented, but they aren't always able to find the right job opportunities. We graduates who are already familiar with the job market can help open doors for them."



The Jerusalem College of Technology 40th Anniversary Dinner

The Jerusalem College of Technology held its 40th Anniversary Dinner in September 2009 at the Machon Lev Campus in Givat Mordechai, Jerusalem. **Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer** was honored upon completing his tenure as President of JCT after 16 years.

Prof. Bodenheimer has been with the College since its founding 40 years ago, starting out as the Head of the Laboratories, then as a lecturer, professor, Head of the Electro-Optics Department, Rector and finally, President. Throughout the years he has labored tirelessly for the advancement of JCT. As a Talmid Chacham and physicist, Prof. Bodenheimer symbolizes JCT, its philosophy and its goals by personifying Torah and Derech Eretz, the educational basis of JCT.

The Machon Lev Campus and its surroundings were upgraded and beautified for this festive occasion. Hundreds of friends, guests, alumni and staff took part in the dinner, at which 18 Nedivei Lev awards were given to generous supporters who established the Prof. Joseph S. Bodenheimer Fund for Student Scholarships and Faculty Research.

Honorary Awards were also given to the founders of Machon Lev, who stood by Prof. Ze'ev Lev z"l and contributed to the establishment and development of JCT. The honorees were **Mr. Zev Wolfson, Mr. Yaacov Kiel, Att. Chana**

Chovav, Mr. Zvi Weinberger, Prof. Yehuda (Leo) Levi and Rabbi Yaacov Lashansky.

Six Honorary Awards were given to outstanding alumni whose work in the IDF, in research and in technology contribute to Israeli society and bring honor to JCT. Alumnus **Lt-Col. Shmuel Ben Ezra** thanked JCT on behalf of the honorees. Shmuel, who was recently awarded the Navy Commander's Prize for Creative Thinking, said that JCT's alumni have an "added value" that is well recognized everywhere.

Guests of honor were Minister of Science and Technology **Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz**; Minister of Interior **Eli Yishai**; and Mayor of Jerusalem **Nir Barkat**.

President of Israel **Shimon Peres** sent his greetings through a video message specially filmed for the occasion.

Rabbi Natan Bar Chaim, the Head of Machon Lev's Beit Midrash for more than 35 years, addressed the audience, and a short video of Prof. Bodenheimer on campus was followed by his kind words of appreciation to all those who had come to honor him and JCT.

The emcee, journalist **Menachem Horowitz**, introduced the speakers, and violinist **Eyal Shiloah** entertained the guests with a virtuoso performance of classical and Jewish music.





1. Aerial view
2. Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat
3. Lt-Col. Shmuel Ben Ezra
4. Minister of Interior Eli Yishai and Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer
5. Harav Natan Bar Chaim and Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz
6. Eyal Shiloah

ON CAMPUS

Sohacheski Student Center Dedication

The Sohacheski Student Center was dedicated at a ceremony attended by **Marilyn and Jaime Sohacheski** and their children and grandchildren. Machon Lev's newest building houses the Samson Gate and Cafeteria donated by **Editha and the late DR. Heinz Samson** and the Glickman Dining Hall donated by **Joseph and Beverly Glickman**, as well as three large lecture halls.



Marilyn and Jaime Sohacheski opening the Sohacheski Student Center



The Samson Gate and Cafeteria and the Glickman Dining Hall



The Israel Henry Beren Center for Academic Preparatory Studies

Ground is due to be broken shortly for the Israel Henry Beren Center for Academic Preparatory Studies. One of JCT's aims is to make academic education possible for those sectors of Israeli society that would not normally have the chance to receive such an education. Over the years, JCT has established several academic preparatory programs of study, enabling aspiring students to fulfill the necessary requirements to embark on a degree program. Currently there are more than 300 students in JCT's preparatory programs.

The students come to JCT within different frameworks.



The Israel Henry Beren Center for Academic Preparatory Studies

Many of them are here under the IDF's auspices of Nachal Haredi – a special unit for soldiers from the haredi community who, during their third year of service, are allowed to study toward reaching entrance level into higher education. Others are civilian students from the haredi community who are making a major effort to enter an academic degree program so they can enter Israel's workforce. Yet another group are students from the Ethiopian community who have completed their army service and want to have the opportunity to advance by attaining an academic degree in order to join Israel's hi-tech world. Another significant group are students from development towns.

Due to growing demand and special requirements resulting in an increase in student intake, JCT is in great need of establishing a center to accommodate the students in the special Academic Preparatory Programs (Mechina). The Israel Henry Beren Center for Academic Preparatory Studies will have classrooms, offices and laboratories and enable the College to concentrate the studies and facilities required for this program into one facility.

Global News

Los Angeles

A cocktail party to celebrate JCT's 40th anniversary was recently held at the home of **Jila Ghodsian** in Beverly Hills, California. The event was a farewell to Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer as outgoing President and a welcome to Prof. Noah Dana-Picard as incoming President of JCT.

Some 70 friends and supporters of JCT attended the event, where guests viewed a presentation by the two Presidents, showing JCT's growth and progress over the past 40 years.

Prof Dana-Picard spent Shabbat Parshat Vayera as a scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of North Beverley Hills community. He spoke at all three services on Shabbat and was a guest of several of the community members.

A parlor meeting was held at the Brentwood home of David and Negar Soufer at the beginning of March. The event was attended by many long-time friends of JCT as well as a large group of next generation friends.



Rachel and Joseph Bodenheimer, Noah Dana-Picard with Rebecca Matoff

Tel Aviv

JCT was a joint sponsor of the **Sanford T. Colb & Co. Intellectual Property Law Conference** held in January at Bar-Ilan's Faculty of Law on "The Future of Subject Matter Eligibility. After In re Bilski." Some 200 participants, including some of the leading patent law scholars in the US and Israel, attended the two-day conference that tackled different aspects and implications of patent law subject matter eligibility thresholds following recent US Supreme Court decisions.

Melbourne

Prof. Gerald Steinberg was the guest lecturer at this year's Hans Bachrach Memorial Oration held in February in Melbourne, Australia. Prof. Steinberg is Executive Director of NGO Monitor and a member of the Political Science Department at Bar-Ilan University. The topic of this year's Oration was "Delegitimizing Israel: Lawfare as Warfare." The annual event is jointly sponsored by JCT and the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.



Noah Dana-Picard, Joseph Bodenheimer and Jila Ghodsian

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