



CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE
HEBREW UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

בית הספר
ללימודים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
ROTHBERG INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL



2019 Annual Report
A Year in Review





14

CFHU celebrates
its 75th anniversary
in Toronto



(Left to right) Gerald Halbert, HU President Asher Cohen, Nathan Lindenberg and Ronnie Appleby

39

Introducing several Canadian students
who received CFHU scholarships in 2019



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Total number of HU students

23,288

**From more than
100 countries**

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A Message from CFHU Leadership

Reflections on a milestone year

Dear Friends of CFHU. This annual report reflects our activities and features highlights from 2019, but we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the sudden curve in the road imposed on all of us by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As proud leaders and supporters of Hebrew University, it is highly gratifying for us to be able to convey to you the relevant and crucial work impacting humanity with which the university is involved, not only on an ongoing basis but also in times of urgent crisis.

The past year marked the 75th anniversary of Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, a milestone we celebrated with events in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Each chapter's celebration reflected its unique qualities and activities while at the same time displaying the exemplary CFHU feeling of solidarity and connection.

In Toronto, longtime friends and supporters of CFHU, Glennie and Nathan Lindenberg, graciously hosted a special anniversary evening in their beautiful home. We enthusiastically toasted the inauguration of their son Ira as the incoming Chair of the Toronto chapter and said a very grateful and heartfelt thank you to Randy Masters for his eight-



year tenure as Toronto Chair. Adding to the celebration, we were fortunate to have Hebrew University President Asher Cohen with us for this pivotal evening.

Montreal and Vancouver held successful events which included a sold-out evening in Vancouver with Professor Yoram Yovell on the Science of Happiness and intimate dinners with Hebrew University faculty members in Montreal.

In light of the need to cancel CFHU's 26th annual March Madness online basketball tournament in 2020, we owe an even greater appreciation to the organizers of CFHU's alumni-driven March Madness initiative in 2019 and the resulting Einstein Student Legacy Scholarships that this annual activity supports. We look forward to seeing this event and its spinoffs continue for many years to come.

Throughout 2019, our 100 Alumni We Love series gave voice and heart to wonderful men and women who shared stories and memories from such a significant chapter in their lives when they were students at Hebrew U. It was a great example of our efforts to attract and engage our alumni and reconnect them in new, meaningful ways.

In our ongoing support of pancreatic cancer research, we held the CFHU-Ruth Farb golf tournament in Toronto for a second year. The sold-out event was a great success, and was possible due to the dedicated

efforts of the organizing committee, and the Farb and Koffman families. Funds raised from the tournament directly support the ground-breaking pancreatic cancer research projects being conducted between labs in Canada and IMRIC, Hebrew University's Institute for Medical Research Israel Canada.

We always have a warm spot for IMRIC, given the seminal role CFHU played in its creation. In May, IMRIC hosted a special day-long symposium in Jerusalem to mark its 10th anniversary. We were happy to send a special congratulatory video that was shown at the event in which we paid tribute to IMRIC and its first-class team of scientists and researchers and saluted their first decade of groundbreaking medical research.

A month later, at HU's annual Board of Governors meeting in Jerusalem, we took great pride in witnessing Senator Linda Frum receive an Honorary Doctorate and Murray Palay a well-deserved Honourary Fellowship.

Throughout the year, we travelled across Canada and met and listened to our local leaders and supporters. This ongoing dialogue is invaluable for our work at CFHU.

As part of our commitment to showcase the best and latest Hebrew University news along with CFHU updates for our constituents, we created a richer, far more user-friendly website, strengthened our

presence on social media, and upgraded the look and editorial content of *CFHU Now*, our monthly newsletter.

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support. As we said at the beginning, we cannot forget that we are reflecting back on our 2019 highlights but we are writing this in the midst of a challenging reality that only science fiction writers could have envisioned.

Let us hope that when we are writing our message for the 2020 annual report, we will be able to highlight many successful and innovative programs based on the world's resumption of in-person contact that will carry us into a new future.

To quote Hebrew University co-founder Albert Einstein: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Indeed, life brings its challenges as we've all seen this year. But by moving past these challenges and focusing on what lies ahead, we will reach new heights of achievement. We can only do this with your continued support and encouragement for which we are always so appreciative.

Wishing you all the best and healthy, fulfilling days ahead.

Sincerely,

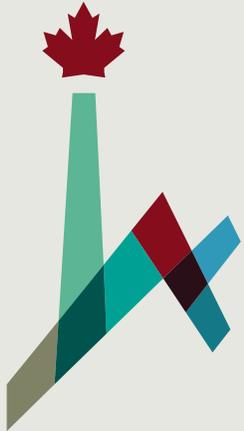


Rami Kleinmann
President and CEO



Monette Malewski
National Chair

A year in
of CFHU,
in the **eve**
took plac

the life 
reflected
events that
we in 2019



Edmonton, AB



Vancouver, BC



Calgary, AB



Winnipeg, MB

CFHU

Making its presence felt across Canada



Montréal, QC

Toronto, ON



JANUARY 14, 2019

CALGARY

Shaping the Human Brain with Prof. Amir Amedi

In conjunction with Calgary's Beth Tzedec Congregation, CFHU organized an evening featuring noted HU brain scientist Amir Amedi. During his lecture, titled "How technology, life experiences and imagination shape the human brain," he spoke about recent advances in brain science. Prof. Amedi is an expert in the field of brain plasticity and multisensory integration. Prof. Amedi also gave presentations in **Vancouver** (Jan. 16) and **Winnipeg** (July 16).



FEBRUARY 11, 2019

TORONTO

Dr. Mona Khoury-Kassabri and Her Compelling Story

As part of its series, Israeli Trailblazers in Conversation, CFHU featured Dr. Mona Khoury-Kassabri, Dean of HU's School of Social Work and Social Welfare. In an engaging Q+A with CFHU's Robert Sarner, Dr. Khoury-Kassabri told her poignant story of growing up in an impoverished, crime-ridden neighborhood in Haifa and later becoming the first Israeli Arab woman to be appointed dean at an Israeli university.



FEBRUARY 12, 2019

VANCOUVER

The Archaeology of Herod and Early Roman Palestine

Together with Prof. Greg Garner, the University of British Columbia Diamond Chair of Jewish Law and Ethics, CFHU's Western Region chapter co-sponsored a lecture on The Archaeology of Herod and Early Roman Palestine by Hebrew University Prof. Orit Peleg-Barkat, who is a part of HU's Institute of Archaeology and has participated in archeological projects and excavations. Her main research subjects include Hellenistic and Roman art and architecture and classical archaeology.



FEBRUARY 19, 2019

MONTREAL

In Conversation with HU's Dr. Mona Khoury-Kassabri

CFHU National Chair Monette Malewski hosted an evening in her home in honour of Hebrew University's visiting Dean of Social Work and Social Welfare, Dr. Mona Khoury-Kassabri. The event featured a lively discussion on a wide range of topics, including the Israeli and Quebec experiences pertaining to language rights and efforts aimed at better inclusion of minorities. Dr. Khoury-Kassabri spoke of the challenges Arab citizens face as part of life in Israel.



FEBRUARY 21, 2019

TORONTO

Prof. Avi Domb and the Latest in Cannabis Research in Israel

Prof. Avi Domb, a leading researcher at HU's Multidisciplinary Center for Cannabinoid Research, gave a lively presentation, kindly hosted by HU alum Jen Lev and Ted Starkman. A member of HU's School of Pharmacy and Faculty of Law, Prof. Domb highlighted new discoveries in the health benefits of cannabis. Also taking part were Alexander Repetski, who has experience with cannabis treatment, and Helen Hatzis, who led the first-ever CFHU cannabis mission to HU.



MARCH 4, 2019

TORONTO

HU Students Among ICAN Fellows at Event at Mid-East Restaurant

In partnership with the New Israel Fund, CFHU hosted a group of fellows from McGill University's ICAN (International Community Action Network) program, including Hebrew University students Goni Ketain Meiri and Haya Abu Kishek, both of whom were from Israel. Held at the Parallel Middle Eastern restaurant downtown, the event included a panel discussion with the fellows on various issues such as social justice and respecting diverse Israeli communities.



MARCH 7, 2019

TORONTO

Making the Scene at Annual Tip-Off Party

To help celebrate the 25th anniversary of its March Madness Tournament, CFHU held its annual tip-off party at the Drums 'N Flats sports bar featuring a musical performance by the entertaining band, Atomic Hustle to mark the milestone. The fun-filled evening, which included dancing, serious schmoozing and a silent auction, kicked off the online tournament which raises funds for the Multidisciplinary Center for Cannabinoid Research at Hebrew University.



MARCH 30, 2019

EDMONTON

Religious experience in writings of Jewish-Canadian women

In conjunction with Beth Shalom Synagogue's adult education series, CFHU's Edmonton chapter President Howie Sniderman hosted Dr. Catherine Caufield, a visiting fellow at the city's Concordia University's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. She spoke about the expression of religious experience as reflected in the prose and poetry of Jewish-Canadian women writers and the influence on their work of diverse religious and secular experiences in Canada.



APRIL 4, 2019

TORONTO

The Science and Culture of Israeli Innovation

At the Beth Tikvah synagogue, Gad Yair, a professor in Hebrew University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and an expert on Israeli scientific culture, held a discussion on why Israel is widely recognized as the 'Start-up Nation.' He highlighted factors that contribute to Israel being the source of so much ground-breaking innovation and the reasons behind the similarities between its internationally-respected scientists and entrepreneurs.



MAY 9, 2019

TORONTO

CFHU Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

To celebrate the major milestone in its history, CFHU hosted Hebrew University President Asher Cohen for a special anniversary event in the Toronto home of long-time CFHU supporters Glennie and Nathan Lindenberg. At the reception, National Chair Monette Malewski presented the first-ever President's Torch Award to HU alumnus and CFHU National Board member Lorne Persiko for his decades-long support of and involvement with the organization.



JUNE 2, 2019

TORONTO

Jerusalem Swings: Celebrating Yom Yerushalayim

In a one-night-only concert at the Winter Garden Theatre, CFHU and the Song Shul co-hosted Jerusalem Swings, a musical celebration of Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) that was the featured closing night concert of Toronto's Jewish Music Week. Performers included the vocal jazz quartet Manhattan Transfer, Cantor Simon Spiro and singer Wendy Lands, who were joined onstage by Israeli jazz artists, City of David Dancers and the Canadian All-Star Swing Orchestra.



JULY 18, 2019

TORONTO

History of Israel Through Art with Shirel Horovitz

Focusing on Israeli art and history, multidisciplinary artist and educator Shirel Horovitz gave a well-curated presentation that highlighted the evolution of Israeli art and artists since the establishment of the country in 1948. Shirel showed how artists have tackled historical events and cultural shifts in Israel, and the influence they in turn have had on the country's culture. The event was graciously hosted by long-standing CFHU supporters Bonnie and Ron Birkin.



JULY 21, 2019

CALGARY

Shining a Light on the Science of Happiness

Yoram Yovell, a professor of clinical neuroscience at Hebrew University and known in Israel as the 'Guru of Happiness,' discussed his work on the science of contentment at the Calgary Public Library. Among the subjects he addressed were the differences between happiness and pleasure. Prof. Yovell is also a highly respected psychiatrist, brain researcher, psychoanalyst, and a best-selling author. Prof. Yovell also gave presentations in **Edmonton** (July 23) and **Vancouver** (July 25).



JULY 31, 2019

TORONTO

Annual CFHU-Ruth Farb Charity Golf Classic

For the sold-out, CFHU-Ruth Farb Charity Golf Classic at the Lebovic Golf Club course, golfers enjoyed the 18-hole course, gourmet meals, raffles and prizes. Held in honour of the late Ruth Farb, the event was organized by the Farb and Koffman families, event committee and dedicated volunteers. All proceeds raised support groundbreaking, collaborative pancreatic cancer research by leading researchers and clinicians from Canada and Israel (IMRIC).



SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

VANCOUVER

Welcoming Reception for Israeli Students

CFHU's Western Region hosted a special event welcoming a group of Israeli students taking part in exchange programs at the University of British Columbia. The reception, at Hillel House, a campus hub for everything Jewish and Israeli, highlighted CFHU's role in connecting Israeli students with UBC and the Hillel Jewish organization. The delegation of visiting students reflected the rich diversity of Israel in terms of their respective backgrounds and fields of interest.



SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

VANCOUVER

Spotlighting Israel's high-tech innovation

Co-hosted by CFHU, PwC and the Vancouver Israeli Tech Club, Intel's former Senior Vice-President Maxine Fassberg gave a presentation on what's behind Israel's celebrated high-tech innovation at an event at PwC. Sometimes referred to as 'the first lady of Israeli tech, she shared her insights into Israeli advancement and its success. Among her achievements, she encouraged women, Arabs, Druze and Haredi Jews to enter the high-tech sector in Israel.



OCTOBER 11, 2019

VANCOUVER

UBC and HU Faculty Exchange Program Lunch and Lecture

CFHU hosted an event led by Hebrew University Associate Prof. Re'em Segev highlighting the university's Faculty of Law exchange program with UBC's Allard School of Law. Established in 2010, the program fosters academic and research collaboration between the two universities. Prof. Segev, who's held positions at several universities in the United States, spoke about challenges concerning arguments related to debate in Moral Philosophy and the Philosophy of Law.



OCTOBER 23, 2019

TORONTO

Honouring Randy Masters and Ira Lindenberg

CFHU held a special evening at Canvas Event Venue celebrating Toronto chapter board leadership. Outgoing Toronto board President Randy Masters was honoured for his eight years of dedicated leadership and chapter achievements. CFHU CEO and President Rami Kleinmann introduced Randy's successor, Ira Lindenberg, who presented his vision for the future, including fundraising efforts to support HU's Multidisciplinary Center for Cannabinoid Research.



OCTOBER 24, 2019

TORONTO

Michael Lepofsky Memorial Poker Tournament

In partnership with CFHU, Neal Brooks hosted the first-ever Betting on a Cure Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament, in honour of the late Michael Lepofsky. The packed tournament was hosted by Neal at his home, with supports playing late into the night. All proceeds from the tournament went toward the newly created Michael Lepofsky Memorial Fund, supporting ground-breaking collaborative pancreatic cancer research in Canada and Israel.

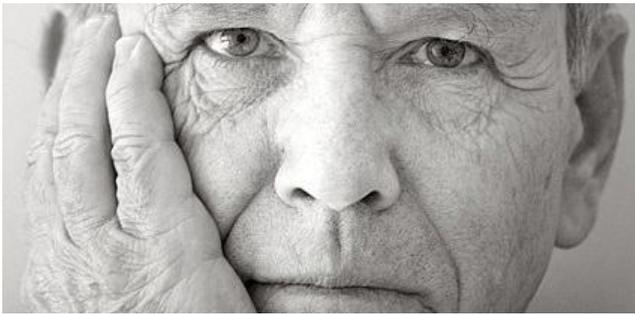


OCTOBER 29, 2019

WINNIPEG

Meet the Real Fauda: Duvdevan's Frontline Combat Soldiers

Featuring the real heroes of the internationally successful Israeli television drama, *Fauda*, CFHU hosted a riveting evening that featured several frontline Israeli combat soldiers of the IDF's legendary Duvdevan undercover counter-terrorism unit. They shared inspiring stories from their high-risk, special operations work in the field and their transition back to civilian life. Since its first season in 2015, *Fauda* has won numerous awards (including Best Drama Series) in Israel.



DECEMBER 3, 2019

MONTREAL

CFHU Book Club: Amos Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*

Some of Israel's most internationally recognized writers, including Amos Oz, have studied at Hebrew University. To honour these authors, CFHU launched its Book Club series, led by Debbie Dankoff, CFHU's Vice-President of National Development, with Oz's widely acclaimed 2002 memoir *A Tale of Love and Darkness* which has been translated into 28 languages. The evening featured an animated discussion of the book and its celebrated author.



CFHU Launches New Website

In March, CFHU unveiled an entirely new look and streamlined interface for its website. Mobile friendly and fully responsive across all devices, the fresh, richer graphic design offers an improved online experience for users. It provides easy access to all content in an attractive format, including wider news pages, easier to navigate video pages and larger photo galleries with a new, more intuitive swipeable interface.

www.cfhu.org



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Amid the confusion of our times,
CFHU's guest speakers make a lot of sense



Ido Aharoni



Prof. Janice Stein



Prof. Shlomo Hasson



Dr. Nir Tsuk

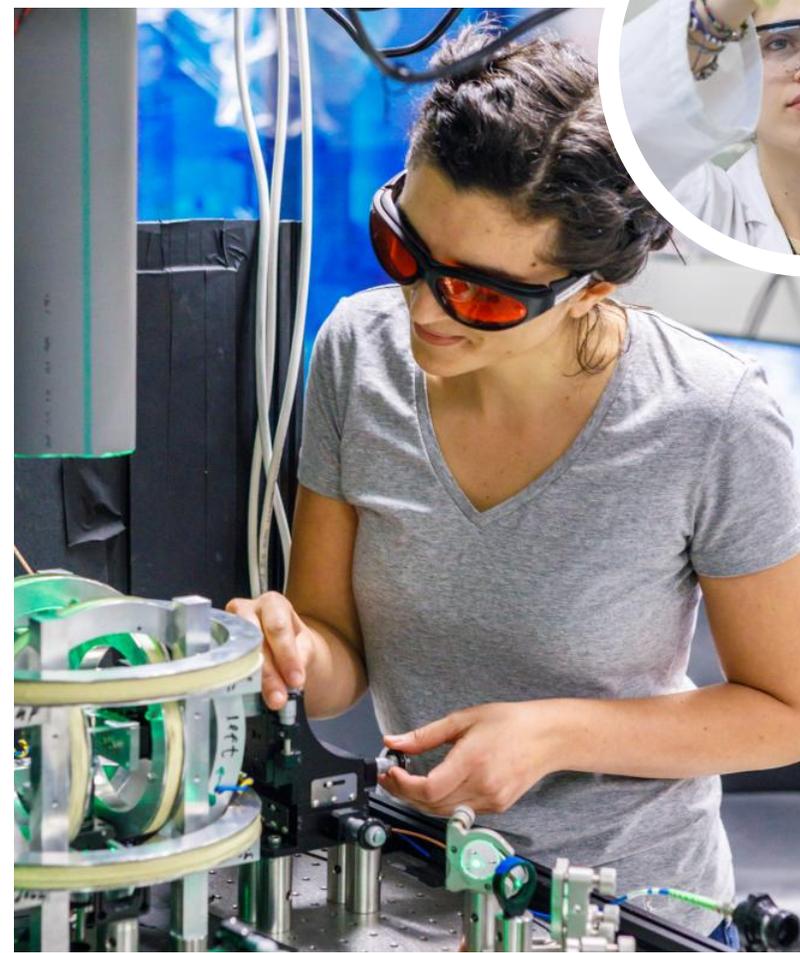


Efraim Halevy

CFHU's webinar series – HUJI@HOME
Great minds shine a light on the world at large

Find out more >>





Hebrew U Hosts 82nd Board of Governors

At university's annual marquee gathering in 2019, CFHU had a strong presence

Always a high point on Hebrew University's calendar, the annual Board of Governors (BOG) meeting attracts friends and supporters from around the world including a contingent from Canada for a wide range of captivating events in Jerusalem. For the five-day BOG in 2019, that began on June 14 with an opening reception at the Goodman Brain Sciences Building on the Safra Campus, the theme was Jerusalem's successful high-tech and entrepreneurial ecosystem in which HU has played a vital role.

"We see ourselves as creating the next generation of leaders that connect knowledge and innovation with industry," HU President Asher Cohen told attendees. "The Board of Governors program gives you a front-row seat to the wonderful synergy of entrepreneurship and academia here in Jerusalem."

Throughout the BOG, the program reflected the exemplary work and high caliber of HU's faculty and students. From the HUI Talks series featuring professors addressing timely issues connected to their





HU Vice-President for University Advancement and External Relations, Yossi Gal, addresses BOG attendees at evening event at Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda market

JERUSALEM CALLING

CFHU reports from HU's 2019 Board of Governors



respective areas of expertise to the plenary session that showcased HU achievements in multiple fields, attendees marveled at the degree of exploration that dominates life at the university.

Other highlights included lively, topical panel discussions; the inauguration of HU's Mobileye Building with company co-founder and HU computer science professor Amnon Shashua; a moving convocation ceremony at the Mount Scopus campus's Rothberg Amphitheater where 335 students received PhD degrees – more than at any other Israeli university – and even an interactive tour of Jerusalem's famous Machane Yehuda outdoor market.

Canadians figured prominently among those honoured by HU. At special ceremonies in recognition for their work on behalf of the university and their contributions to their respective communities, Senator Linda Frum received an Honorary Doctorate; Joe Lebovic was inscribed on the Wall of Benefactors; Murray Palay received an Honorary Fellowship; and Ben Horwood was inscribed on the Wall of Life. (See following pages). They were also the guests of honour at CFHU's annual dinner, hosted by National Chair Monette Malewski and CEO/President Rami Kleinmann, for friends

Continued on page 22

HU President Asher Cohen, (right), with Prof. Amnon Shashua at inauguration ceremony of Mobileye Building on Safra Campus. Prof. Shashua is a co-founder of Mobileye



Watch the video here!

Continued from page 21

of the organization. This time, it took place at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center Museum, overlooking the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

To give a taste of the BOG for people back in Canada and beyond, CFHU created a series of video reports, Jerusalem Calling, which was posted on its website and social media platforms during the BOG. Hosted by CFHU's Robert Sarner, Senior National Director of Communication, and a former TV journalist/anchor in Israel, Jerusalem Calling featured seven editions that covered highlights from each day's activities, including interviews with notable BOG participants and CFHU supporters.



HU professor presenting at HUJI Talks

Senator Frum addresses BOG delegates



Joe Lebovic, (4th from right), with fellow Wall of Benefactors honourees, HU executives and Dan Schlessinger, Chair of Board of Governors, (2nd from left)



Four Special Canadians



Hebrew University pays tribute to a group of exemplary individuals



Linda Frum

Honorary Doctorate

Senator, journalist and best-selling author Linda Frum's interests and accomplishments transcend borders and simple categorization. In Toronto, where she resides, she has championed affordable housing and co-chaired a record-setting annual UJA campaign. In Israel, Linda has earned great respect and friendship among many of its citizens.

A fierce advocate for human rights in Iran, she is a member of the International Auschwitz Birkenau Foundation Committee, a past board member of Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, former Chair of UJA Toronto Federation's annual campaign and past trustee of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Ontario Arts Council.

While on the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in Ottawa, Linda led legislative efforts to eliminate foreign influence in Canadian elections. Often grappling with issues that make headlines, she has served as a member of the Senate's Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources as well as the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

Linda neither rests on her laurels nor allows herself to become inured by exposure to human hardship. At Hebrew University's tribute to those receiving honorary degrees at the June 2019 convocation, her voice cracked with emotion while describing a gift she had received: a hand-carved maple leaf made for her by a Canadian Iranian being held prisoner in Iran. She advocates for his release year after year and keeps the gift in her desk drawer as a constant reminder of what she's fighting for.

"The road is long and hard and the race is often painful and weary," said Linda in concluding her address to fellow honorees. "This moment with friends old and new inspires me to keep lifting my feet in a marathon that is not yet over."

Linda is not just lifting her own feet, but galvanizing others to do the same. Her words – and, more importantly, her actions – lift the hearts and hopes in all of us.



Joe Lebovic

Wall of Benefactors Dedication of Inscription

Born in Czechoslovakia, Joe Lebovic is a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who has long called Toronto his home. He studied Theology and Economics at the University of London in England before immigrating to Canada in 1949 with his father and his brother Wolf. His father had been a sawmill operator and the three established a building and development company (Lebovic Enterprises) in 1953. It has enjoyed an excellent reputation and in 2013 received the prestigious BILD (Building Industry and Land Development Association) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joe's business success is paralleled by the impact of his philanthropy. The list of his Jewish affiliations is lengthy and varied, with his contributions often described with superlatives. For example, Joe and Wolf donated the largest-ever Canadian gift to a hospital, to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. They made the lead gift to the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan, Ontario.

Joe received the Spirit of Jerusalem Medallion from the State of Israel Bonds and was recognized as a Holocaust Survivor by the Province of Ontario in affiliation with the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. He received the Canada Medal for the 125th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada by the Governor General of Canada and the Beth Shalom Synagogue Humanitarian Award for his outstanding community contributions. Joe and Wolf are the largest givers to the Jewish National Fund of Canada.

"We not only pledge but pay up," said Joe, with his signature humour at the dedication of inscriptions on the Wall of Benefactors on HU's Mount Scopus Campus during the Board of Governors. There, university leaders paid tribute to Joe for his lifetime of achievements and major philanthropic pursuits, including generous support of the university.

"The reason I'm working with Hebrew U is to create prestige and recognition for Israel," said Joe. "We need Hebrew U to create recognition for Israel and also respect for Jews in the world."



Murray Palay

Honorary Fellowship

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Murray Palay has made a profound philanthropic mark in his hometown, elsewhere in Canada and in Israel. Among his community work, he served as the National Chair of CFHU from 2013 to 2017, the first chair from west of Ontario in the organization's 75-year history.

During his term, he devoted significant time and expertise to ensure ongoing support for CFHU. He stressed the importance of finding new ways to engage the next generation in what he described as a "changing philanthropic landscape." Murray co-founded the Professional and Business Division of the Winnipeg Chapter of CFHU, which eventually became the Young Leadership Division, of which he became Honorary Founding Co-chair.

After receiving his law degree and Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree in accounting and finance from the University of Manitoba, he worked as a lawyer for 16 years with the firm Buchwald, Asper, and Henteleff. In 1993, he left his law practice to join Loring Ward Investment Counsel which evolved into Assante Corporation. In 2005, he formed Quadrant Asset Management with a business partner.

Murray has lent his generosity and professional expertise to many worthy causes, including the Mauro Institute for Peace and Justice, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Jewish Federation's "GrowWinnipeg" campaign and the Manitoba Combined Jewish Appeal. He was previously awarded the Allan Bronfman Prize for his stellar efforts and guidance of CFHU and he continues to play a valuable role on several key committees, consistent with his 40-year involvement with the organization.

In recognition of his decades of service to Hebrew University, Murray received an honorary fellowship at a special ceremony on Mount Scopus during the Board of Governors meetings.

"It's the people that make the organization," Murray said, in accepting his award. "It's the people that keep the organization going, so it's very special to be honoured among those friends."



Ben Horwood

Wall of Life Dedication of Inscription

Active in the Canadian investment industry since 1988, Montreal resident Ben Horwood is a well-established, successful management professional in the financial world who has also made an important philanthropic impact.

Ben graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Civil Law Degree after completing his HBA from the University of Western Ontario. He worked for the law firm of Lavery De Billy before starting his investment management career at MAM Investment Council in Montreal.

In the early 1990s, Ben was looking for a charitable endeavour that would help Israel, include a business element and have a good track record and history. CFHU fit the bill. While serving as a member of the Montreal chapter's board of directors, he worked closely with CFHU's then-Executive Director, Eastern Region, Carolyn Steinman.

Ben currently serves as president of Value Contrarian Asset Management, which he founded in 1995. The independent investment management firm manages the Value Contrarian Equity Fund and individual portfolios for institutions, high net worth individuals and accredited investors. Ben holds both a fund manager's as well as a portfolio manager's license.

The longstanding and valued supporter of CFHU was honoured at the Board of Governors meeting in Jerusalem last June. Ben stood beside Hebrew University President Asher Cohen for the dedication on the Mount Scopus campus. In his acceptance speech, he reflected on his decades of involvement with CFHU.

"It doesn't happen overnight but it's been worth it," Ben said. "It's all about the children. I set up an endowment fund for Ethiopian scholarships to try to bring up those less fortunate, who could rise up through education and make Israel a better society."

Ben's generosity and vision are not only making a difference in the lives of students today, but also impacting their road ahead and the future of Israel.

– Profiles by Marilyn Lazar

Lessons Learned on Many Levels

Initiative by the Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation brings together Hebrew U and McGill University students and faculty for memorable exchange program

Seventeen students, four faculty members, two universities, two countries, and one unforgettable experience for participants. Numbers don't begin to describe the impact of the 2019 Student Exchange Program between Hebrew University and McGill University. The focus was on comparative politics – specifically, an analysis of the political institutions of Canada and Israel. Made possible by the Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation, the McGill-Hebrew U program is the only Canada/Israel exchange program of its kind in the field of political science.

The program, which allows Canadian university students to experience first-hand Israel's history, culture and people, was established in 2007 at the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba by Sergio Carvalho. He's now a professor at Dalhousie University's School of Business and serves as National Director of the Schwartz/Reisman Canada/Israel Exchange Program.

The intensive credit course, which took place from August 8 – 27, 2019, ran seven days a week for the full duration, including evenings. This was no holiday. Ahead of the course, students had to complete required readings. Classroom work was augmented by receptions, meetings and excursions. Students were expected to participate fully and were required to complete group projects comparing the political systems of their two countries.

In Their Own Words

It's hard to sum up the program's breadth of concepts and depth of personal connection – unless you were there. Following are first-hand perspectives from four participants and the professional who oversees the program.

Prof. Sergio Carvalho
Chair in Economics and Business, Rowe School of Business, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. National Director

of the Schwartz/Reisman Canada/ Israel Exchange Program

"It's life-changing. The students, most of whom don't have Israel on their bucket list of places to visit, travel the country from north to south. The program rates high by both academic standards and cultural experiences. Students come back really impacted by it. It stays with them forever."

Prof. Reuven Hazan
Chair in Israeli Democracy and Politics, Department of Political Science, Hebrew University

"Canada and Israel are both multiparty parliamentary democracies





Hebrew University and McGill University exchange program participants take time off from studies to visit site overlooking Montreal

but almost diametrically different in their electoral systems, federalism, constitutionalism, judicial branches, governments, etc. Teaching students from both countries, who interact with each other, about the political institutions of Canada and Israel, in both countries, along with visits to important historical sites that helped shape the two countries, and the current debates on politics and society affecting both countries, is an experience that can't be replicated on any single campus."

Gabriel Helfant

21, 4th year McGill student, major in Political Science and History, minor in Psychology

"There are few opportunities for me to get hands-on experience

in my field of study. The Canada-Israel Exchange Program allowed my peers and me to delve deeply into contemporary political issues in both Canada and Israel with the support of our Israeli counterparts and extraordinary professors. Israel is a complex state to consider within political science. Studying the topic from thousands of miles away would have had far less value. Visiting the Rabin Museum and the Israel Democracy Institute, we were encouraged to think critically about issues which concern Israeli Jews and Arabs alike."

Eyal Ben Shimol

29, Political Science student, Hebrew University and student ambassador of the 2019 trip

"I plan to begin my

Master's degree in Hebrew U's Political Science department while working in a profession that combines educational and social activities.

I had never taken part in a delegation like this. It really opened my eyes to a world that brings together young Israelis with students from around the world, both Jewish and non-Jewish. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to get to know better Canadian students and the complex and interesting dilemmas engaging them, while showing them the reality of Israel – its politics, diverse challenges and other unfamiliar subjects. I gained the ability to tell my country's story in a complex, detailed way."

- Marilyn Lazar



Both Sides Now

Hebrew University co-hosts conference in Jerusalem to explore many facets and challenges of the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora

As a co-host of the first-ever Judaism, Israel and Diaspora Conference, held in Jerusalem in October 2019, Hebrew University demonstrated its commitment to being relevant and addressing current issues that matter beyond the academic world. Forty speakers – secular and religious, representing diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise including journalists, historians, an ethics expert, psychiatrist, philosopher and a musician – delved into topical concerns relating to Jewish identity, anti-Semitism and Israel-Diaspora relations. With presentations from prominent figures from Israeli society, politics and academia as well as social entrepreneurs and leading members of Diaspora Jewry, the day-long program proved highly engaging.

In his opening keynote address, HU President Asher Cohen emphasized higher education's role in society, namely to keep the doors to knowledge open and accessible to all, "Arab and Jew, man and woman, secular and religious, Israeli and exchange students." He talked about serving the "university of the Jewish people" as referred to in HU's constitution and touched on the importance of integrating ultra-Orthodox students on campus.



“We don’t distinguish between different streams of religiously observant Jews,” said Asher, “and we will not support segregation. Separating students by gender would be anathematic to the essence of academia.”

In addition to its president, other HU figures spoke. Rector Barak Medina, Professors Manuela Consonni, Eva Illouz, Yoram Yovell and Yair Zakovitch all addressed a range of issues at the conference, whose other co-hosts were the Ha’aretz newspaper, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Ruderman Family Foundation.

Presenters explored Judaism beyond its religious definition to include a national identity and culture. They also focussed on strengthening the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. Participants discussed – and, at times, hotly debated – the topics.

The conference, held at Jerusalem’s International Convention Center, drew more than 2,000 delegates (with more around the world watching it live online). It included panels, roundtable discussions and additional events such as “The Next Generation.” Participants talked about how cultural or secular Jews can associate with Judaism, highlighting a shared identity for Israelis and Diaspora Jews. One session addressed the question: Is Judaism a religion, nation, culture or peoplehood?

“Some see [Judaism] as a religion or nationality,” said well known former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky. “Some see it as a world of culture or history... we cannot decide one section is Judaism and another isn’t... we must preserve all facets of Judaism and be in dialogue with one another.”

Mr. Sharansky, who previously was the head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency and served as an Israeli cabinet minister, added: “Only with a broader perception of Judaism is it possible to realize the Zionist vision of a Jewish and democratic state, and to build a strong, open and respectful relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.”

Notwithstanding challenges in this sometimes complicated relationship, the mood at the conference remained positive, true to the theme of making Judaism work for all. Israelis want Jews in the Diaspora to know that conversations about secular Judaism are now happening in Israel and invite them to participate. **- Marilyn Lazar**





HU President Asher Cohen, (left), and the late Andrew Harper at Montreal luncheon honouring his major gift to IMRIC

A Banner Year for IMRIC

Montreal philanthropist helps the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada celebrate its 10th year anniversary with an inspirational gift

As the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) celebrated its 10th year anniversary, Montreal resident and former Hebrew University attendee, Andrew Harper committed 1.3 million dollars to create The Carole and Andrew Harper Research Complex in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at IMRIC, which honours the memory of his late wife.

In September, HU president Asher Cohen traveled to Montreal to join local chapter members at a luncheon in celebration of the gift, thanking Mr. Harper for his generosity and longtime dedication to the university. Shortly after this lunch, Mr. Harper, at the age

of 96, passed away, leaving a wonderful legacy of giving throughout the city. His gift to HU is being used to strengthen four labs, led by outstanding researchers, including IMRIC chair Haya Lorberbourn-Galski.

Mr. Harper's gift was the latest example of Canadian's philanthropic dedication to IMRIC's ongoing development. With thanks to our many donors, including Morris Justein z'l, the Waks family, Michael Levy, Gail Asper, Clara Robert, Dr. Stephen Fichman, and Dorothy Nadolny, IMRIC has become Israel's leading facility for biomedical research, medical and health training and medical innovation. Affiliated

with HU's Faculty of Medicine, it brings together biomedical researchers, pharmacy and pharmaceutical scientists, and clinicians who cover all areas of modern medicine and the health sciences, forming a research and clinical powerhouse.

Through IMRIC, important research collaborations have been developed, such as The Alex U Soyka Pancreatic Cancer Research Project, now in phase two of its partnership with the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research (OICR); Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) with the University of Manitoba and the International Fetal Alcohol Consortium; Neurological Research with McGill University



(From left to right): Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi, OICR President/Scientific Director; Fellowship recipient Adrian Pelin; CFHU supporter/philanthropist Joe Lebovic; Fellowship recipient Dr. Laura Garcia-Prat; Rami Kleinmann, CFHU President and CEO



Ari Brojde, CFHU Montreal Chapter President



IMRIC Chair Haya Lorberboum-Galski addressing 10th anniversary event in Jerusalem

and Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI); and Diabetes Research with HU Professor Dr. Yuval Dor and Dr. James Shapiro of the University of Alberta.

In July, CFHU and IMRIC, along with OICR, honoured the successful conclusion of the first round of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Cancer Genomics and Immunity Fellowship Program. A cross-continent multidisciplinary collaboration between experts in cancer research, the program has forged new partnerships between IMRIC's labs in Israel and Canada, providing training opportunities for early career researchers in both countries. Among those awarded fellowships are Yoav

Amikam from the lab of Dr. Ofer Mandelboim at IMRIC, and Waleed Minzel and Eric Hung from the lab of Dr. Yinon Ben-Neriah at IMRIC.

Two months earlier, in Jerusalem, IMRIC celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special event on May 29 at HU's Hadassah Medical School at the Ein-Kerem campus. The day-long program included presentations by prominent long-time IMRIC researchers along with younger colleagues.

Given the central role CFHU played in IMRIC's creation in 2009 and in fostering support for its development since then, CFHU leaders were present at

the 10th anniversary celebration by way of a video they prepared especially for the occasion in which they congratulated the Institute and its entire team on its milestone.

Consisting of five departments and 109 research groups, IMRIC carries out work vital to understanding most illnesses that challenge medical science, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases and infectious diseases. Its research on genes and proteins that control basic processes in living cells aims to unlock the mysteries of disease and find the keys to their causes, treatment, and prevention.

The Impact of a Planned Gift

A Montreal family's generous initiative transforms the memory of an extraordinary former HU student into a legacy of meaningful benevolence

This story, born of loss, has a lasting, positive impact, not just for the family and friends who loved the late Avriel Butovsky, but also for the students at Hebrew University who benefit from his legacy. For over 25 years, thanks to the generosity of Avriel's now late family, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University has provided a select number of students with The Avriel Butovsky Memorial Endowment for Perpetual Student Aid for an Israeli Arab Student at Hebrew University.

In 1976, Avriel left Montreal for Jerusalem to begin his studies in History and International Relations at Hebrew U. The experience would profoundly change the course of his life, planting the seeds of his fascination with the Middle East.

After graduating in 1980, with a BA cum laude, Avriel went on to earn a Master's degree in Philosophy, Modern and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford, later working in London as a research officer for the World Jewish Congress.

Returning to the Middle East in 1987, Avriel carried out independent graduate research in Egypt at Cairo University. He became fluent in Arabic and developed a wonderful circle of Arab friends. Through the study and teaching



Avriel Butovsky



Avriel's father, Mervin Butovsky

of Muslim history and culture, he developed a strong attachment to the Muslim world while remaining deeply rooted in the Judaism and Zionism of his home and education.

"Avriel fully embraced the duality of his studies and life experience," said his father, Mervin Butovsky, an author and beloved Concordia University Professor Emeritus of British and American Literature, who died in 2010. "It was out of Avriel's love for both of these worlds that he aspired to build bridges of tolerance and ultimately peace."

In 1989, Avriel was accepted into the PhD program for Middle Eastern Studies and History at Harvard University. Four years later, while completing his research back in Cairo, he was offered an exciting position at *The Economist* magazine in London – Editor of the Middle East Desk of the magazine's Intelligence Unit, a publication for institutional subscribers.

In preparation for this position and pursuing his interest in exploring the Middle East, Avriel traveled to Syria in the fall of 1993. Tragically, on October 7, he was killed in a road accident. He was 34 years old.

Avriel's father, Mervin, and his mother, who passed away in Dec. 2019, and brother Yaron, who passed away a few months

earlier, chose to remember Avriel in a way that honours his strong convictions. In 1996, they established the perpetual student aid in his name. The fund was recently augmented through the insurance policy, purchased, assigned and donated to Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

Throughout the years, many recipients of the award wrote to the Butovsky Family describing how the award had had been critical in helping them make it through university despite, for many, difficult living conditions and competing financial priorities. The students come from myriad faculties and the scholarship helps provide opportunities for learning in an environment that promotes co-existence and peaceful dialogue within the framework of higher education.

Avriel received a CFHU scholarship during his undergraduate degree. This award will ensure his memory is kept alive, in the hearts of his family and friends and in the gift of hope and peace that the scholarship, in his name, provides.

Funds received from the realized insurance policy provide for the names of the Butovsky Family, of blessed memory, to be inscribed on the Hebrew University Wall of Life, situated on Mount Scopus overlooking Jerusalem.

Alumni Step Up to the Plate

Former HU students in Canada provide important support to CFHU

Spotlighting alumni, with love

In 2019, building on a popular initiative launched the previous year, CFHU continued its 100 Alumni We Love series showcasing people who have studied at Hebrew University. As part of the feature, each alum expresses in his/her own words what prompted them to study at HU and how it impacted their lives.

Accompanied by then-and-now photos, each alum profile is featured on CFHU's website and social media platforms. Given the level of interest and number of submissions still coming in from alumni, the series will surely be extended beyond the first 100 alumni in 2020.

Madness mania makes its presence felt

From its humble beginnings in 1994, CFHU's March Madness US Online College Basketball Tournament has grown to also include Hockey Madness and Football Madness, raising more than \$1,000,000 for research and scholarships for Canadian students to study at Hebrew U.

Esther Schlesinger, CFHU's Manager of Alumni Relations, convened a dedicated committee of volunteers, co-chaired by alumni Lorne Persiko and Mike Kraft, to make the 2019 online Madness sports tournaments a success, raising



funds for the Einstein Legacy Student Scholarships. For the 25th anniversary March Madness Tip-Off Party, they organized a fun-filled evening at Drums N Flats in Toronto in March to kick off the Madness sports tournaments fundraising campaign. People danced to a great band, Atomic Hustle, bid on sought-after silent auction items and schmoozed with old and new friends.

Standout alum Lorne Persiko recognized for devotion to CFHU

In May, at a special reception in Toronto celebrating CFHU's 75th anniversary, National Chair Monette Malewski paid tribute to Lorne Persiko for his dedicated service to the organization. In recognition

for his extensive and much appreciated involvement with and support of Hebrew University and CFHU, she presented him the first-ever President's Torch Award.

Currently a member of CFHU's National Board of Directors and Co-Chair of CFHU's Alumni Committee, he's been involved with CFHU alumni for more than 25 years. He's also helped Canadian students to study at HU through a scholarship fund he created in memory of his parents, which has awarded more than 60 Persiko Legacy scholarships since its inception. In addition, Lorne co-chairs the Madness Sports Tournaments Committee with fellow alumnus from his year at HU, Michael Kraft.

100 ALUMNI WE LOVE



*All smiles at March Madness
Tip-Off Party 2019*

Where are they now?

In December, CFHU launched a new online editorial initiative that focused on the professional journeys of Canadian alumni. Using a question-and-answer format, the feature, titled *Where Are They Now?*, highlights how people's time as students at Hebrew University has played a critical influence in helping determining their future career path.

The first installment, spotlighting Lorne Persiko who attended Hebrew University's Rothberg International School in 1983-84, also focused on his current professional work as head of Westhaven Capital Inc. and Westhaven Mortgage Investment Corporation based in Toronto.



Lorne Persiko receives President's Torch Award from CFHU National Chair, Monette Malewski



Trip participants visiting the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Jaffa

A Trip to Remember

Revisiting CFHU's captivating 2019 Live, Learn and Explore trip to Spain and Israel

For those not familiar with CFHU's annual Live, Learn and Explore trips which we've been doing since 2004, they consist of a week in a European country followed by a week in Israel.

In the fall, we began the 2019 trip in Spain with our exceptional Scholar-in-Residence, Shalom Sabar, Professor of Jewish Art and Folklore, at Hebrew University.

Our week in Spain highlighted towns with Jewish heritage including Seville, Cordoba and Granada, followed by visits closer to Madrid, Toledo and Segovia. The sense of Jewish history, although far in the past, was clarified and enhanced by the wonderful lectures and day-to-day insights and knowledge of Prof. Sabar.

Each day was special as was the friendship and mutual support among participants. Israel and our connection to Hebrew University are the main *raison d'être* of this yearly experience and this time, as with every previous trip, we were not disappointed.

We started our week in Israel with a visit to the Hula Valley in the North of the country accompanied by Professor Abraham Fainsod, a researcher at IMRIC (Institute for Medical Researcher Israel-Canada). His non-professional expertise includes bird migration history involving the Hula Valley Nature Reserve's bird sanctuary. We also visited Sindyanna of the Galilee, a unique non-profit organization led by a team of Jewish and Arab women working to create social change at a grassroots level.

The next few days were spent seeing Israel through the amazing lens of Hebrew University. Our trips always include exposure to the Faculty of Medicine and IMRIC. This time, we were fortunate to hear from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dina Ben Yehuda, and several young IMRIC researchers.

Other university highlights included a wonderful presentation by Professors Cory

Shulman and Judah Koller on the activities of the much-needed Autism Centre and the valued research initiative taking place in Ontario with the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto and McMaster University in Hamilton.

Each day was full and interesting and included other memorable excursions such as the amazing archeology visit to the digs in Khirbet Queifiya and Kirbet al-Rai with Prof. Yosef Garfinkel, Head of the Institute of Archaeology, as well as fascinating presentations from faculty at the Frieberg Centre for Asian Studies, the School of Computer Science and Engineering and the Edmond and Lily Safra Centre for Brain Sciences.

While the lasting impact of the pandemic will likely not support a Live, Learn and Explore trip later in 2020, hopefully we will be able to look forward to another one the year after.

- Merle Goldman



Student Support in Action

Meet some of the Canadian students who received CFHU scholarships in 2019 to study at Hebrew University

Providing financial assistance to students to help enable them to study at Hebrew University is part of what makes work at CFHU so gratifying. Each year, thanks to the generous support of Canadian donors, CFHU awards scholarships to students from all over Canada hoping to pursue their studies at Hebrew University. We recently checked in with several of the 2019 recipients.



Jamie Magrill, (centre), with other students at HU



Jamie Magrill

Enrolled in the International Graduate Program for Biomedical Sciences, Jamie is in his first year of a Master's of Science in Biomedical Science. After he completes his MSc, he intends to apply for an MD-PhD in Pathology and Disease

Management, and continue to conduct research into the physiological mechanisms underlying diseases such as diabetes and cancer. Born in Toronto, Jamie grew up in Vancouver.

Why did you decide to study at HU?

Studying at Hebrew University gives me access to cutting-edge research in the field of biomedicine. When I was considering where to go for my Master's degree, my mentor in Canada suggested Prof. Yuval Dor, a world-renowned researcher at HU in the field of cancer,

diabetes and developmental biology.

Now one year into my degree, I know I made the right decision and have learned how to run my own experiments, conduct science independently and have even started collaborating with a biochemistry lab at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Because Israel has such a high density of world-class research institutions, I'm able to maintain a full course-load and research program at Hebrew U, while also learning and exploring

Continued on page 40



Rachel Zeliger

Continued from page 39
new angles of my project at the Weizmann Institute.

What have you enjoyed most about studying at Hebrew U?

Its diverse student body has given me the opportunity to meet people from around the world, and to be exposed to different points of view on many issues and concepts, from science to food and culture. I've also been able to travel to destinations and conferences around Europe and Asia that would be out-of-reach for most students in a Canadian post-secondary institution.

What difference did receiving a CFHU scholarship make for you?

Receiving such a scholarship has enabled me to focus solely on my studies, without having to worry about finances or maintaining a second job. Rent and cost-of-living in Jerusalem are among the highest in Israel, and many undergraduate and graduate students need to consider a second job or look for parental support. My parents can't afford to support me as they have two other children whose undergraduate tuition

needs to be paid at this time. Receiving a CFHU scholarship means I don't have to consider a second job at this time to avoid going into debt for my university experience.

Rachel Zeliger

Pursuing her LLD studies, Rachel's research focuses on national laws that regulate the ability of non-profit organizations to receive foreign funding, with a focus on OECD-member countries. Originally from Thornhill, Ontario, a suburb just north of Toronto, she hopes either to work in the non-profit sector after her PhD or continue with post-doctoral studies if possible.

Why did you decide to study at HU?

In 2008, I first had the wonderful opportunity to study at Hebrew University for a summer short course after my first year at Osgoode Hall Law School. The quality of teaching I experienced left a lasting impact on me and contributed to my decision to return to Hebrew U for my LLM studies in International Law and

Human rights in 2011–2012 and, subsequently, for my doctoral studies starting in 2016.

What have you enjoyed most about studying at HU?

It has left a meaningful impact on me, both professionally and personally. I made aliyah about two years after completing my LLM studies. In 2016, I was accepted into a joint doctoral program between Hebrew University and Freie Universität Berlin (Human Rights Under Pressure). As a doctoral fellow in this program, and a current PhD candidate at Hebrew U, I'm exposed to lectures and one-on-one meetings with world renowned scholars in various fields pertaining to the study of human rights. I could not ask for a better program to complete my doctoral studies in.

What difference has receiving a CFHU scholarship made to you?

Financial support from CFHU has made my studies at HU possible and for that I'm beyond appreciative and grateful. Specifically, I wouldn't have been able to start, let alone continue with, my doctoral studies without CFHU's financial

support. I would like to thank CFHU for all their support, which continues to play a central role in allowing me to achieve my educational aspirations, including my desire to contribute to, and learn from, the internationally recognized research completed by faculty members and students at HU.



Noam Blauer

Noam Blauer

Currently doing a Master's in Jewish Studies, Noam, who comes from Montreal, plans to continue with his studies after receiving his MA with the goal of becoming a Jewish educator who "excites people's excitement about Jewish texts."

Why did you decide to study at HU?

It has always been my dream to live in Jerusalem, and Hebrew University has a highly accomplished and world-renowned faculty that I was eager to study with. I applied

and was accepted to multiple universities, but as soon as I got into Hebrew U, it was a no-brainer as to where I would end up going.

What have you enjoyed most about studying at HU?

In just my first semester, I was able to study with outstanding scholars who are doing remarkable work in the field of Jewish Studies. Sometimes, I find I just have to pinch myself when thinking about how lucky I am to be studying at such an incredible hub for research and scholarship.

What difference did receiving a CFHU scholarship make for you?

Without it, I'm not sure I could afford to be doing this program and living my dream in Jerusalem. I'm so indebted to CFHU for helping me realize a long-held dream.

Travis Godfrey

Studying Modern Hebrew, Travis also took one course in Arabic as his minor concentration. A resident of Edmonton until this year, he intends to complete his undergraduate degree next year and pursue either an MA in International Relations or attend law school.

Why did you decide to study at HU?

Hebrew University is the best place to study Modern Hebrew. I'm doing a degree

in Hebrew studies, and as I set aside this year to learn as much Modern Hebrew as I could, I came to HU.

What have you enjoyed most about studying at HU?

The teaching is excellent and so are the staff. I also enjoy the spectacular views from the Mt. Scopus campus every day.

What difference did receiving a CFHU scholarship make for you?

Receiving a CFHU scholarship was a big part in making this year in Jerusalem possible. I also may be able to stay later than I would have been able to otherwise, and do more Hebrew because the scholarship has taken off some of the financial pressure. I'm grateful to everyone who has helped me succeed this year, particularly the staff and donors of CFHU. I've been away from Canada for a while now, so being supported by a Canadian community has made me feel more in touch with Canada.



Travis Godfrey



16th International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies: HU President Asher Cohen; Daniel Ben-Natan; Canadian Ambassador Deborah Lyons and Prof. Gili Dror

True North Strong and Free on Mount Scopus

HU's Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies rises to the occasion in 2019

Topping the 2019 agenda of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies was a two-day conference that brought together scholars from different fields in Canada and Israel. The 16th International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies, which took place in May on the Mount Scopus Campus, featured a rich academic program involving six sessions and 51 speakers.

At the opening session, attendees were greeted by Daniel Ben-Natan, President of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies; Asher Cohen, HU President; , Deborah Lyons, Canada's Ambassador to Israel; and Gili Drori, HU professor

and conference co-chair. The University of Toronto's Prof. Janice Stein chaired the keynote session in memory of Dr. Ralph Halbert, co-founder of the Centre, who passed away in Dec. 2018.

Additional highlights included a tour at Start-Up Nation Central in Tel Aviv followed by a reception at the Canadian Embassy and lectures at HUstart, the HU's Entrepreneurship Center, a joint venture of the Asper Center for Entrepreneurship at the School of Business Administration, the Faculty of Science and Yisum (HU's technology transfer company).

During the year, the Centre also

funded and hosted joint research workshops with researchers and scholars from HU and Canadian universities under the following titles: Understanding International Economic Agreements: Theoretical Innovations and Methodological Challenges; Israeli-Canadian Workshop on Queues; Conversations on Socio-materiality and Understanding Affordances; and Charity in Classical Jewish Law: Between Religion and Social Ethics.

In keeping with its mandate and at the invitation of HU professors, the Centre hosted visiting counterparts from Canada who participated in seminars or workshops or

gave lectures. The Centre also supported visits to Hebrew U by eight prominent Canadian scholars and hosted public lectures addressing Canadian topics and issues before an academic audience and the general public.

The Halbert Centre was active on other fronts, too. Co-sponsored by the Centre, the Peter Lougheed Fellowship supports MA and PhD students at Hebrew U working on a dissertation or thesis with significant Canadian content. Recipients receive funding to collect data in Canada, meet Canadian experts in their field, and/or take advanced courses at Canadian universities. The 2018–2019 fellowship was awarded to Vardit Lightstone, a joint placement student in the

Dept. of Germanic languages and literatures, University of Toronto, and the Folklore and Folk Culture Program, HU, for her research proposal *Performing immigrant identity: Canadian Yiddish life stories*.

The Halbert Centre and the Halbert Exchange Program at U of T provide an annual Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies at U of T. The 2018–2019 fellowship was awarded to Veronica Dudarev, from HU's psychology department, for her research proposal, *Meet me under the totem pole: A study on psychological effects of reconciliation symbols*.

The Halbert Centre Faculty Israeli–Canadian Exchange Program facilitates scholarly exchanges on a wide range

of topics with significant Canadian content between HU faculty and researchers affiliated with institutions of higher education in Canada. The 2018–2019 grant was awarded to Prof. Maya Tamir, Department of Psychology, HU, and Prof. William Cunnigham, Department of Psychology, U of T, for their proposal *Precious anger: Prejudice shapes evaluations of emotions*.

Hebrew University's Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies fosters research and promotes the understanding and knowledge of Canadian civilization among Israeli academics and the public at large in the areas of social sciences, humanities, law, social work, education and business administration.



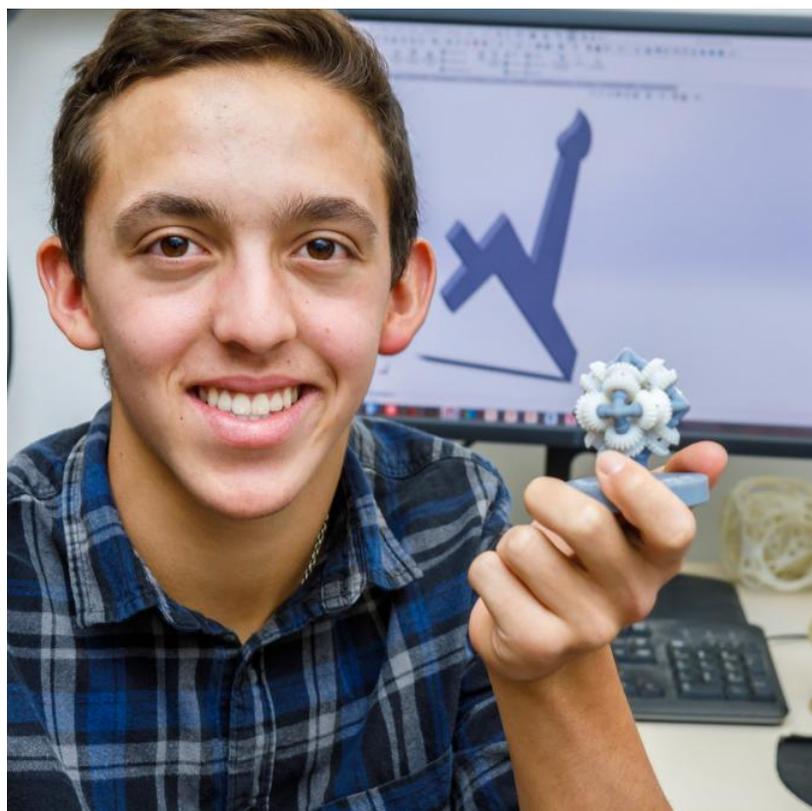
Prof. Moshe Haviv and Prof. Opher Baron workshop



Prof. Shlomi Segall and Dr. Igor Shoikhedbrod workshop



Prof. Yoram Haftel and Prof. Krzysztof Pelc workshop



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Instructions must be obtained
from Ofra Meshel before use
this appliance

BIO-RAD

ChemIDoc™ XRS+
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POWER

LENS CONTROL

TRANS UV

PREP UV

EPI WHITE

TRANS WHITE

HOLD

LENS CONTROL

CLOSE OPEN

WIDE TELL

FAR NEAR

STOP PAUSE



Discoveries and Other Feats

Passionate pursuit of knowledge of HU's faculty and students leads to major steps forward in many fields in 2019, including this small selection.



No bones about it? HU offers first glimpse of ancient Denisovans

Using a pioneering form of science fiction-like research, two HU professors came up with the first glimpse of what long-extinct Denisovans might have looked like. Geneticists Liran Carmel and David Gokhman and research assistants developed a way to glean clues about anatomy from ancient genomes to piece together a rough composite of a young girl who lived in Siberia 75,000 years ago. The Denisovans, close cousins of Neanderthals, once thrived across Asia. The HU team discovered 56 Denisovan anatomical features that may have differed from humans and Neanderthals, 34 of them in the skull.

Their study, published in the journal *Cell*, used genetic information rather than fossils to predict the physical appearance of Denisovans, who split off from the Neanderthals around 400,000 years ago. Until now, their appearance had remained a mystery because aside from a finger bone found in a Siberian cave, only a few teeth and a jawbone have ever been clearly identified as belonging to Denisovans.



HU researchers create embryo stem cells from skin cells

A ground-breaking study by Hebrew University found a way to transform skin cells into the three major stem cell types that comprise early-stage embryos. The findings have significant implications for modelling embryonic disease and placental dysfunctions, as well as paving the way to create whole embryos from skin cells. As published in *Cell Stem Cell*, Dr. Yossi Buganim of HU's Dept. of Developmental Biology and Cancer Research and his team discovered a set of genes capable of transforming murine skin cells into all three of the cell types that comprise the early embryo: the embryo itself, the placenta and the extraembryonic tissues, such as the umbilical cord.

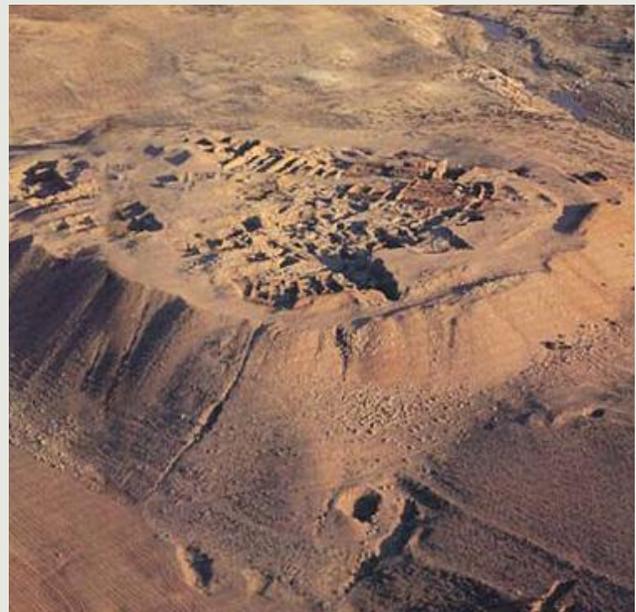
In the future, it may be possible to create human embryos out of human skin cells, without the need for sperm or eggs. This discovery has vast implications for modelling embryonic defects and shedding light on placental dysfunctions, and solving certain infertility problems by creating human embryos in a petri dish.



Non-invasive test developed at HU detects early-stage cancer cells

A new blood test developed by a fifth-year doctoral student at HU's Faculty of Medicine helps locate cancer cells. Based on information obtained by the test, the technology can identify accurately and sensitively the pathological processes in specific organs. The non-invasive test enables the identification of free DNA that is secreted into the blood, to find out if it originates in diseased cell, and to identify which organs it has reached. It also allows identification of heart disease, organ failure and cancer of all kinds and monitors the development of infectious diseases. As is well known, the earlier a person's cancer is discovered, the sooner treatment can start to prevent a worsening of the situation, increasing the chances of survival.

Joshua Moss, who headed the team that developed the test, said by providing an early diagnosis, it could prevent the majority of cancer deaths. For his successful development, he was awarded the prestigious Kaye Prize for Innovation by the university.



Biblical city from time of King David found by Hebrew U archaeologists

A joint archaeological expedition led by HU, which included the Israel Antiquities Authority, and Macquarie University in Sydney, concluded it discovered the biblical city of Ziklag, dating back to 12th century BCE. After a years-long excavation at a location between Kiryat Gat and Lachish in southern Israel, about 60 km south of Tel Aviv, Prof. Yosef Garfunkel, head of HU's Institute of Archaeology, and leader of the project, said the finds the team uncovered are consistent with scriptural references to the geographic area of Ziklag, the Philistine city where a young David sought refuge from King Saul. Large stone structures were unearthed, including finds characteristic of Philistine culture. Stone vessels and metal vessels found on site are similar to other finds from this period that were discovered at past excavations in Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron and Gat, all ancient Philistine cities. Ziklag is mentioned several times in the Bible, most famously in the Book of Samuel, when David was granted refuge from King Saul by the Philistine King Achish of Gat.

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HU research key to diabetes cure in coming years

Using research by Prof. Eduardo Miterani from HU's Faculty of Science as its basis, a team of Jerusalem researchers and entrepreneurs said they have a cure for diabetes that could hit the market within the next few years. Betalin Therapeutics has developed the first bio-artificial pancreas for insulin-dependent diabetics, which would be implanted into the patient and connect with his or her blood vessels. It would then be able to measure the body's sugar level and secrete an optimal amount of insulin needed to balance blood sugar.

The company was founded in 2015 based on a decade of research by Prof. Miterani who examined extensively how cells need to come into contact with supportive tissue that simulates the extracellular environment in the human body. This innovative new way to treat diabetes helps the diabetic pancreas to return to secreting much-needed insulin. With this cure, the patient would never have to inject insulin into his body again.



World's first lab-grown meat facility made possible through HU research

Based on technology developed by HU Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, Jerusalem biotechnology company Future Meat Technologies (FMT) is establishing the world's first cultured meat pilot production facility. Producing GMO-free meat cultivated directly from animal cells on a commercial scale, FMT utilizes the rapid growth of connective animal tissue cells (fibroblasts), without the need to raise or harvest animals. Grown in patented bioreactors, the cells can be turned into cultured muscle and healthy fats. The company's manufacturing process, during which cells double in mass every 24 hours, enables the production of cell-grown chicken, lamb and beef within only two weeks.

FMT says its laboratory-based manufacturing model results in 99% less land use and 80% fewer greenhouse emissions that traditionally produced meat. The company plans to introduce hybrid products into the market, combining plant proteins for texture with cultured fats to create the aroma and flavor of meat.



Start-up cools your home using HU-invented nanotech paint

Israeli innovators are developing ways to end mass energy consumption and pollution caused by air conditioners, such as by developing new materials and technologies that convert the sun's heat into cold. One such company, SolCold, co-founded by HU physics professor Guy Ron, is working on developing a special paint based on nanotechnology that uses sunlight to create a cooling effect. Prof. Ron invented the high-tech, light-filtering coating that powers the paint behind SolCold, which reverses the natural phenomenon of photon energy released by the sun. The paint developed by SolCold consists of two layers: the outer one that filters out the sun's rays and the inner one that actively cools the material by turning heat into light. By being converted into higher wavelengths, the temperature is lowered. As a result, the hotter the environment, the more the cooling effect. The coating's full cooling effect doesn't necessarily penetrate to whatever is inside it, be it a car or building although the coating could cool the interior by some 5-10 degrees Celsius.



HU part of scientific study that solves conundrum of Nile River

A joint research team including Hebrew U has solved the geologic mystery of the Nile River's unchanging path. In the process, the scientists also made another discovery: the major river in Africa is about 30 million years old – six times older than previously believed. Researchers used computer simulations to recreate 40 million years of tectonic plate activity to verify their findings. The work involved tracing the river's geological history by studying ancient volcanic rock in the Ethiopian Highlands and correlating it with enormous deposits of river sediment buried under the Nile Delta.

Ancient Egyptians considered the Nile River to be the source of all life. The river's steady northward path has nourished the fertile valleys of northeast Africa for millions of years and in doing so, shaped the course of human civilization. Researchers discovered that if not for the mantle movement keeping the Nile on course, it would have turned west long ago, probably changing the course of history along with it.

Forging Ahead

It's remarkable what Hebrew U achieves in one year. In 2019, true to form, it broke significant new ground with achievements in many fields. Herewith a small sampling.

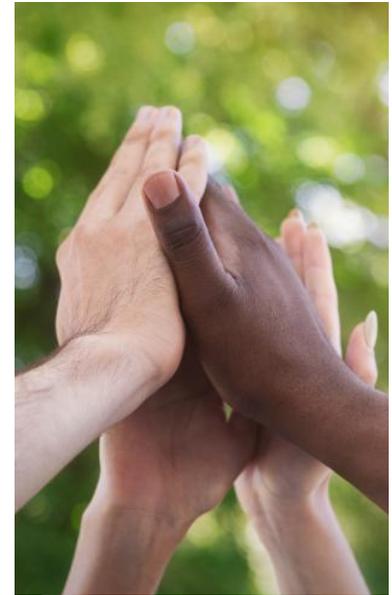
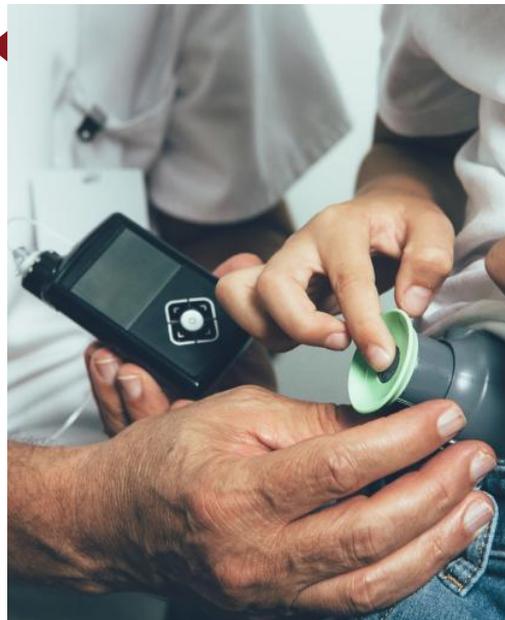


HU figured prominently among the winners of the EMET Prize, awarded for excellence in academic and professional achievements and have made a significant contribution to Israeli society. Four HU professors – Yinon Ben-Neriah, Ze'ev Kedar, Tsvi Piran and Avner de Shalit – received the award for their work in the categories of Life Sciences, General History, Exact Science and Political Science and Strategy.

Researchers from HU's Institute of Chemistry, led by Prof. Norman Metanis, found a way to improve the quality of life of diabetes sufferers. They developed a process for chemical production with high efficiency of human insulin that increases its stability and greatly reduces the frequency diabetes patients need to inject insulin into their bodies.



Prof. Rotem Karni and his team at HU's Institute for Medical Research-Israel Canada (IMRIC) presented a new technology to fight cancer. They designed decoy molecules that inhibit RNA-binding proteins that speed up the growth of brain and breast cancer. It also enables scientists to tailor-make decoys for other types of cancer, thereby speeding up and improving treatment for cancer patients.



HU became the first Israeli university to adopt a green, socially responsible investment model, which lays down rules in financial considerations that factor in environmental and social impact and corporation governance. Joining a similar trend at several foreign schools, HU undertook to consider shifting its investments toward green energy and companies that safeguard workers' rights.



HU researchers successfully transformed a magnetic resonance (MRI) machine from just a 'diagnostic camera' to one that records changes in the biological makeup of brain tissue. This new information should help doctors determine if a patient is merely getting older or developing a neurodegenerative disease, such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's.

HU's Prof. Amnon Ben Tor of HU's Institute of Archaeology was awarded the Israel Prize. A noted scholar he has excavated extensively in Tel Hazor in the Upper Galilee and is famous for taking a middle path in the debate on the scientific validity of the Bible. In announcing its selection, the Israel Prize committee said due to Prof. Ben Tor's work, Tel Hazor is now a national park with rich archeological value.



HU Prof. Ora Paltiel was a recipient of the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize, which honours exemplary immigrants from English-speaking countries and their contributions to Israeli society. In addition to her clinical, teaching and research commitments, Dr. Paltiel has held leadership roles including Director of Hadassah's Center for Research in Clinical Epidemiology.



HU Prof. Amnon Shashua co-founded Israel's first new bank in nearly 50 years. This after the Bank of Israel granted a license to establish a digital bank. With no street branches, it includes providing credit, taking deposits, managing accounts and buying and selling securities. A computer science professor at HU, Prof. Shashua is also Senior VP at Intel, President and CEO of Mobileye, and co-founder of OrCam.



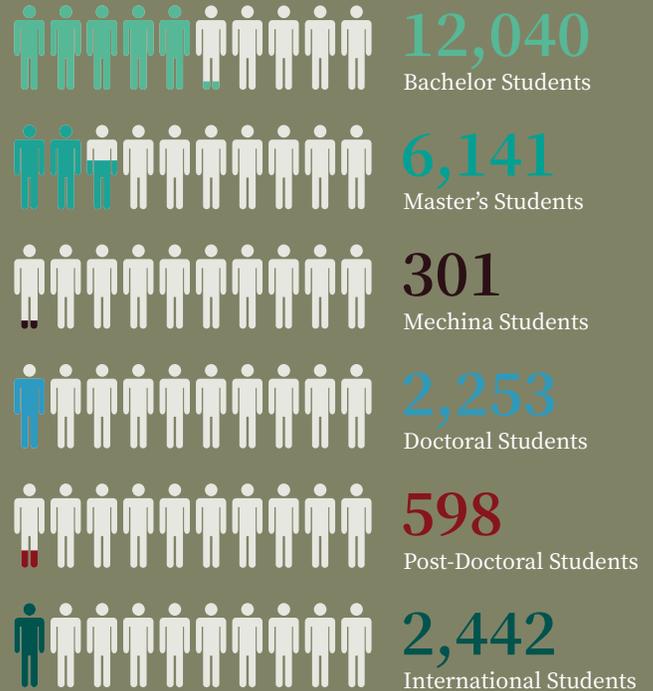
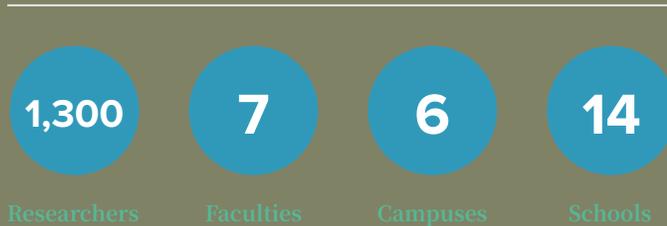
HU Prof. Dan Gibson, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore, helped develop a new anti-cancer drug that has less toxic effects to the kidneys than other drugs. Working like a "magic bullet" targeting cancer cells, the drug has less interactions with other tissues, minimizing negative side effects and lowering the risk of patients developing resistance to anti-cancer drugs.



Luxury German carmaker Porsche invested in Israeli start-up TriEye, whose technology is based on years of advanced research in nano-photonics by HU Prof. Uriel Levy, also the company's CTO. Founded in 2016, TriEye has developed short-wave infrared (SWIR) camera technology improving the ability of vehicles fitted with assistance systems or autonomous driving functions to see in poor weather conditions.

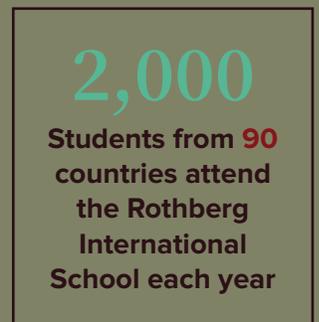
Strength in Numbers

A statistical portrait of Hebrew University as of 2019



More than **200 majors** and programs with over **5,789 courses**

GLOBAL SCOPE



PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS



8
Nobel Prizes



14
Wolf Prizes



54
EMET Prizes



100
Rothschild Prizes



300
Israel Prizes



1
Fields Medal in Mathematics



1
Turing Award in Computer Science



1
Canada Gairdner
International Award

INNOVATION IN NUMBERS

Tens of millions of dollars
in annual revenues

10,750+
Patents

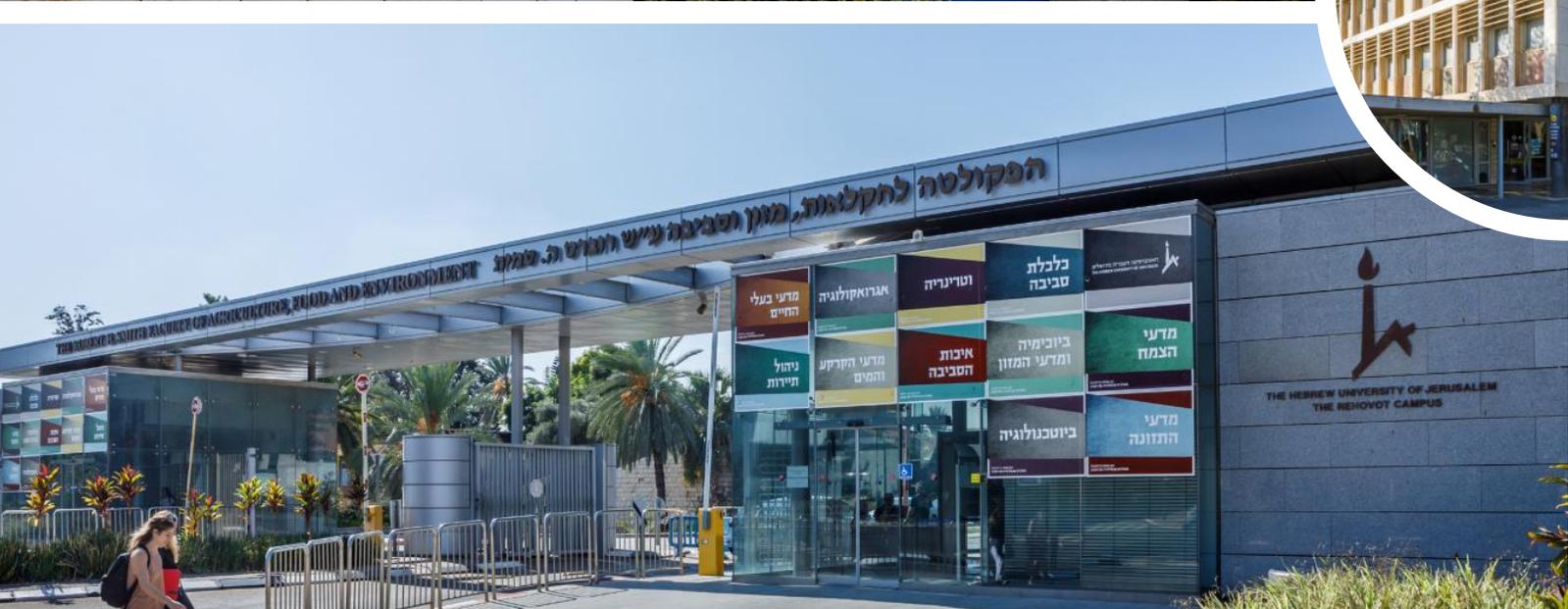
3,030+
Inventions
(150 per year)

600+ Commercial
Products

1,050 Licenses

170 Spin-off
companies

27 Countries in which
there's a Friends of HU







CFHU Balance Sheet 2019

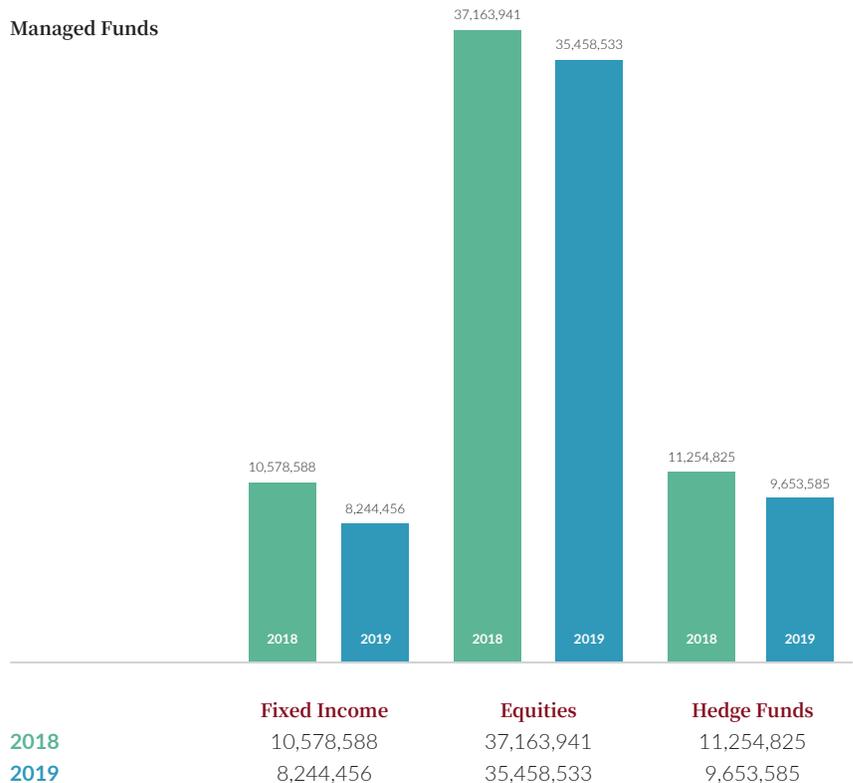
Selected Financial Information (Expressed in U.S. funds)

*Note: CFHU's fiscal year extends
from Oct. 1 until Sept. 30*

As at September 30	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash	2,198,657	3,226,777
Managed Funds	53,356,574	58,997,354
Other	<u>734,774</u>	<u>896,359</u>
	56,290,005	63,120,490
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	427,212	1,591,798
Deferred revenue	<u>158,383</u>	<u>283,851</u>
	585,595	1,875,649
Fund Balances	55,704,410	61,244,841

Managed Funds Only	2019	2018
Fixed Income	8,244,456	10,578,588
Equities	35,458,533	37,163,941
Hedge Funds	<u>9,653,585</u>	<u>11,254,825</u>
	53,356,574	58,997,354

Managed Funds



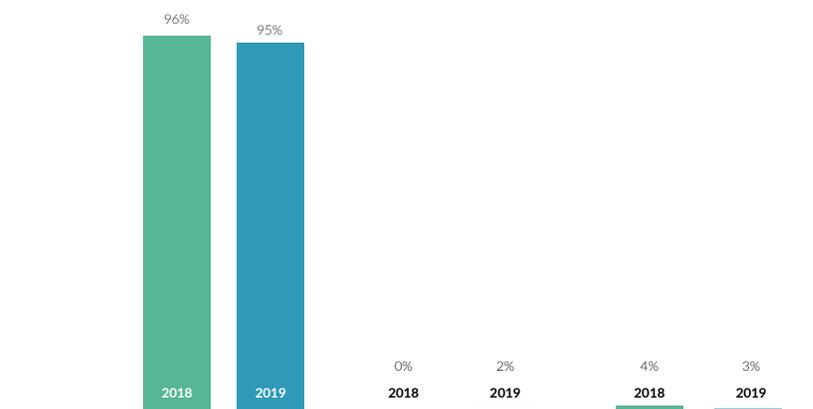
Income Statement 2019

*Selected Financial Information
(Expressed in U.S. funds)*

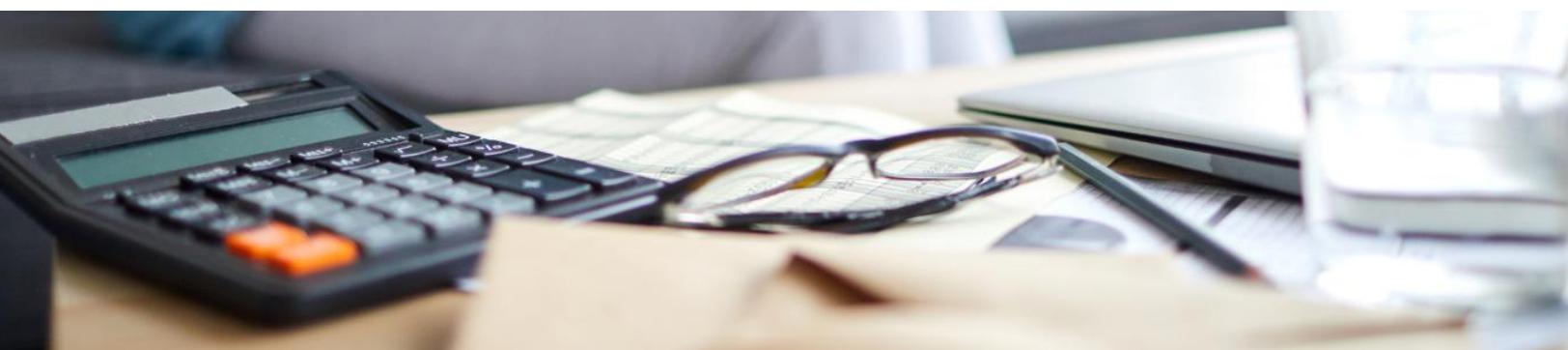
For the year ended September 30	2019	2018
Revenues		
Donations	4,432,457	6,599,921
Investment Gain	<u>1,778,365</u>	<u>5,130,581</u>
	6,210,822	11,730,502
Expenditures		
Expenditures	5,715,838	5,229,701
Charitable Disributions	<u>6,035,415</u>	<u>6,237,310</u>
	11,751,253	11,467,011
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	- 5,540,431	263,491

Charitable Distributions	2019		2018	
Hebrew University	95%	5,733,562	96%	5,978,213
Canadian universities and foundations	2%	129,992	0%	5,878
Scholarships, research grants and other academic affairs	3%	<u>171,861</u>	4%	<u>253,219</u>
	100%	6,035,415	100%	6,237,310

Charitable Distributions



	Hebrew University	Canadian universities and foundations	Scholarships, research grants and other academic affairs
2018	96%	0%	4%
2019	95%	2%	3%



Leadership

The men and women whose vision, values and commitment guide CFHU as it moves forward

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Monette Malewski
Chair, National Board of Directors

Murray Palay
Immediate Past Chair

Rami Kleinmann
President and CEO

Board of Directors

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Member

Ari Brojde
Montreal Chapter President

Brent A. Schacter
Member

Howard Sniderman
Edmonton Chapter President

Joseph Ohayon
Member

Lillian Shiller
Member

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Margaret Shuckett
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Martin Katz
Member

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Communication

Dina Wachtel
Western Region Executive Director

Investment Committee

Pavillion Advisory Ltd. Consultant

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Member

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Murray Palay
Member

Ian Rosmarin
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Vancouver Chapter

Stav Adler
Chapter President

Winnipeg Chapter

Margaret Shuckett
Chapter President





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President and CEO



Michael Abrams
Chief Financial Officer



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*VP, National
Development*



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*Senior National
Director,
Communications*



Esther Schlesinger
*Manager,
Alumni Relations*



Merle Goldman
*Project Consultant and
Stewardship*



Lazer Danzinger
Stewardship



**Mohammed
Abdulkadir**
Database Consultant



Kris Hreczynski
Officer Manager



Chris Carabott
Fund Manager



Janice Louis
Bookkeeper



Jennifer Hirst
*Executive Assistant to
President & CEO*



Ilona Kibel
*Donations and Reception
(incoming)*

Regional



Marlene Flicht
*Donations and Reception
(outgoing)*



Dina Wachtel
*Executive Director,
Western Region*



Tamar Kraus
Director, Toronto Chapter



Ayala Davis
*Associate Director,
Montreal Chapter*





2019



CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE
**HEBREW UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM**

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