

BRONICKIS RECEIVE ISRAEL PRIZE

Technion congratulates Yehuda and Yehudit (Dita) Bronicki, founders of Ormat Technologies and long-time Technion benefactors, on receiving the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Industry.



Yehuda and Dita Bronicki receiving the Israel Prize, with Education Minister Naftali Bennett

3 KRILL PRIZES TO TECHNION FACULTY MEMBERS

For the second year in a row, three of the six Krill Prize winners were from Technion.

Six Krill Prizes, of \$10,000 each, are awarded annually in Exact Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine, Agriculture and Engineering to outstanding faculty members at Israeli universities who hold the untenured positions of Lecturer or Senior Lecturer. Recipients are selected by the Wolf Foundation Scholarship Committee, from a list of candidates submitted by all Israeli universities. The selection is made on the basis of the candidates' excellence and the importance of their research.

This year's Technion faculty winners Asst. Prof. Yakov Babichenko from the Davidson Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management, Asst. Prof. Charles Diesendruck from the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry and Asst. Prof. Meytal Landau from the Faculty of Biology. Congratulations!



Meytal Landau



Yakov Babichenko



Charles Diesendruck

"A TRULY INSPIRING PROGRAM"

Like many alumni of Technion prestigious Rothschild Scholars Program for excellence, Shiri Avni is an impressive young woman with a thirst for knowledge who is eager to help make the world a better place.

By Rebecca Kopans

Every year, approximately 20 outstanding new Technion students are accepted to the Rothschild Scholars Program, which is generously supported by The Rothschild Caesarea Foundation, chaired by Baroness Ariane de Rothschild. This group of honors students benefits from a special interdisciplinary curriculum designed to spark their sense of curiosity and creativity. A generous scholarship which covers their tuition, dorms and a stipend enables them to completely immerse themselves in their studies.

"The Rothschild Scholars Program aims at nurturing the next generation of leading Israeli scientists, and all our activities are geared towards this goal," explains Prof. Michael Elad, who has headed this program since 2015. "We are working hard on a daily basis to further improve this program in various ways, making sure that the success we had so far will continue and strengthen."

Shiri Avni, 24, is a Rothschild scholar who graduated in 2016 with two degrees, one in Physics and one in Computer Science, and is currently half-way through her Master's degree in Computer Science at Oxford University in England. She has fond memories of Technion in general and of the Rothschild Program in particular. "Technion is top-level and it's remarkable the way my home university prepared me for my current studies," she points out. "And the Rothschild program was truly inspiring. They constantly pushed me to do more, and I loved that. I was exposed to amazing people through the program," she recalls enthusiastically.

Born in Israel, Shiri lived with her family in California for ten years from the time she was five years old, returning to Israel for high school. When she moved back, she didn't like her Israeli school and frequently cut class. Her attitude changed during the summer after 11th grade, when she



Rothschild scholar Shiri Avni



took part in Scitech, a summer program at Technion for teens from around the world. She had an epiphany of sorts when she realized for the first time that "Math is exciting." In 12th grade, she already took Math and Physics courses at Technion for credit. "I fell in love with these disciplines and started seeing the beauty behind them," she remembers. Bitten by the science bug, after high school Shiri did a year of National Service at Madatech, the national science and technology museum, while concurrently continuing to take courses at Technion.

By the time she formally enrolled as a Technion student, Shiri had already completed many of the first year's required courses. After one semester as a regular student, she was admitted to the Rothschild Scholars Program as a 2nd-year student. "The special lectures meant for the program's students were really great; they were very interdisciplinary, which the university encourages," Shiri recalls. "I was especially interested by the Biology lectures, which exposed me to important issues related to health and research. In fact, when I'll do my PhD, I would like to apply my Computer Science background to the fields of health or biology."

As part of her undergraduate studies, Shiri spent a semester at Tsinghua University in Beijing ("China's MIT") and, after graduating from Technion, she spent two months in New York on a Cornell Tech internship, developing a

health-related app. Before starting her Master's degree at Oxford, she worked with Prof. Oded Shmueli at Technion's Computer Science Faculty. Shiri attributes many of her academic and career choices to the Rothschild Program. "I could always ask my professors for advice. They've been a great support system and I have no doubt that I will continue to consult with them in the future," she smiles.

FACTS ABOUT ROTHSCHILD GRADUATES

A recent in-depth study by the Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research revealed the following data about graduates of Technion's Rothschild Scholars Program:

- > Over 60% of the program's graduates have a PhD or are currently pursuing advanced degrees
- > 28% pursue postdocs, of which 54% do so in the world's top 20 universities
- > 76% reported that the program greatly influenced their academic experience
- > 85% believe that the program opened many doors for them in terms of their career
- > 48% worked on research projects while they were a Rothschild scholar