From Dawn to Dusk and Beyond

The ribbon was cut, the mezuzah affixed and blessed, and the doors officially opened to TAU's Dan David Classroom Building, to the visible satisfaction of Mr. Dan David, international businessman and Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa of TAU. The Building answers a pressing need for instructional space at TAU.

TAU President Professor Yoram Dinstein explained the concept behind the building, which has already been used for several months with "smashing success." TAU was "bursting at the seams," he said, having expanded rapidly due chiefly to the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union in the early 1990s. The surge of students gave rise to an extraordinary shortage of classrooms which the Planning and Budgeting Committee recognized and was prepared to help in alleviating.

The David Building is "an intensively used classroom cluster in the University," Prof. Dinstein stressed. Belonging to no single Faculty, but to the University as a whole, its modern facilities and auditoriums are much more...
sought after by all the Departments.
Classroom assignment in the Building,
Dinstein said, is centrally controlled and
computerized and "is based on a system
of merit and not on favoritism toward
any particular school."

Designed by Israeli architect Ofer
Kokler in a contemporary style, the
Building has three levels with a total
floor space of 3,000 square meters. On
the top two levels are nine classrooms,
three lecture halls and hallway lounges,
all furnished with comfortable and
attractive seating. Adjacent to the first
floor entrance is a stone courtyard and
garden. The ground floor has three
spacious, beautifully-designed
auditoriums.

The aura of the Building reflects the
spirit of the donors, Dan and Gabriella,
who are "honorary goodwill
ambassadors of Israel in Rome," said
Prof. Dinstein. He presented them with
a plaque and referred to them as "great
machers" at TAU.

Dan David was delighted in having a
hand in the "joie de vivre" atmosphere
that the sunny Classroom Building
creates with its open terraces and
flowers. He stated that all should make
sure in the future that dreams be
accomplished and that "no dream should
remain only a dream."

Guest speaker Prof. Yosef Gorny,
Head of the Chaim Weizmann Institute
for Zionist Research at TAU, whom
Dinstein introduced as "the number one
expert on the implementation of the
Zionist dream," delivered a lecture
entitled "Between Immigration and
Aliyah: An Historical Perspective."

Katzir Room Honors
Biotech Pioneer

"Birthday gifts come in many forms,
one which give only fleeting pleasure
and others which are of more lasting
duration," said Mr. Benno Gitter at the
cornerstone laying ceremony of the
Ephraim Katzir Departmental Meeting
room in the Jack Green Building of
biotechnology.

Friends of Prof. Katzir from around
the world cooperated in establishing the
meeting room as a tribute to Prof.
Ephraim on the occasion of his 80th
birthday. Participants in the project were
Yvonne and Pablo Simko, who initiated
the project; Sally and Lester
Ritner; Hella and Marian
Kazier; Dame Shirley and
Leslie Porter; Fanny and
Wolf Blumenthal; Dr.
Constantiner; Karl
David Goldberg; the
Sherman Charitable
Trust; Denise Cattan; and
Anjula Leigh and the late
Morris Leigh.

"No gift could be more
sting than this gift of
ends, a gift which will
commodate scholarly
sessions in the years to
me," said Gitter. The
Katzir Meeting Room will
provide a modern facility for
meetings, lectures,
workshops and symposia,
thereby promoting collaboration among
experts at the University and abroad.

"Modern biotechnology is a diverse
and dynamic field," said Prof. Katzir.
"We need modern biotechnology in
agriculture, in medicine, in general
science, in health care, and in industry.
My hope is that this room will provide a
place to meet and to discuss joint
projects which will be of use."

Prof. Ephraim Katzir is the recipient
of many distinguished national and
international titles. Long before Israel's
War of Independence, he was one of the
founders of Israel's scientific armaments
industry. His outstanding scientific and
public achievements led to his election
as the fourth President of Israel.

Often called "the founding father of
biotechnology in Israel," Prof. Katzir
was among the first scientists worldwide
to realize the importance of this
academic discipline, and was awarded
the Japan Prize for Biotechnology. He
established Israel's first Department of
Biology at TAU, which today
boasts over 20 senior staff members.

A "Brief Portrait of Biotechnology
at TAU" was provided by
Prof. Gerald Cohen,
Chairperson of the
Department.