



The Lowy Quarterly

News & updates from TAU's global home. Tuesday, May 27, 2025.



TAU President Ariel Porat speaking at the Tel Aviv Convention: *Where is Israel Headed?* (photo credit: TAU)

Message from the Vice President

Prof. Milette Shamir
TAU Vice President International

In these turbulent months, I've been deeply moved by the extraordinary acts of humanity and expressions of hope that continue to emerge. Since October 7, my colleagues and I have witnessed countless gestures of solidarity; reminders of the resilience and generosity that sustain our community. One particularly humbling example came recently from Mindy and Jon Gray, whose monumental [gift to Tel Aviv University](#)—the largest in our history—underscores their deep belief in the power of academia to shape a better future for Israel and the world.

Still, these remain difficult times. As a nation, we await the return of our remaining hostages before we can fully begin the long process of healing. But as we search for ways to mend and protect, we must guard against losing sight of our own humanity in the face of this horrific war. I therefore wish to conclude my message with the words of TAU's President Ariel Porat, delivered earlier this month at the annual Tel Aviv Convention:


"We must raise our voices—more than we have so far—in a clear and unequivocal call against the unintentional killing of innocent civilians in Gaza that is unfolding before our eyes, including the killing of children. Compassion for innocent people, and especially for children, does not contradict the yearning to bring the hostages home. It does not contradict love of Israel. It does not contradict Zionism or Jewish values."

President Porat added that indifference to what is happening in Gaza is not an option: *"It is our duty, as members of Israeli academia, to speak out loudly, to move—and to move others—out of the state of indifference. If we don't do so, who will? Academia must serve as a beacon, lighting the way for the entire society. We don't have the privilege to stand aside and hope for the best."*

Yours,
Milette

Featured

- The record \$125 million donation from Mindy and Jon Gray to TAU's medical and health sciences faculty [is set to transform the faculty's international collaboration and reach](#) in a number of different ways.
- At a cornerstone ceremony held on May 14, The Lowy International School—along with patron Sir Frank Lowy—[celebrated what will be its new headquarters](#) at the heart of TAU's campus. [Watch a video overview](#) of the ceremony.
- [The University of Connecticut partnered with TAU on a joint hackathon event](#) bringing together Israelis, Palestinians and others from the MENA region.
- [TAU awarded ten honorary degrees](#) during this year's Board of Governors (BOG) events, including to: bioengineer and physicist Stephen Quake, environment and climate expert Miranda A. Schreurs and *The New York Times* journalist Thomas Friedman. [Watch Friedman's TAU BOG talk](#): "How Should Israel Navigate a Post-Oct. 7 World?"
- Prof. Raanan Rein, who served as TAU's first vice president for global engagement, [will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Buenos Aires](#) for his distinguished role in Latin America's scholarly and public debates.
- [Read about](#) TAU philosophy PhD student Attay Kremer's experience as a Fox International Fellow at Yale University.



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