With August here, we are finally bringing our academic year to a close at Tel Aviv University (TAU). The original schedule looked quite different; then October 7 happened, followed by war, and the school year was postponed. We adapted to the best of our ability, and we continue to adapt, focusing primarily on making sure no one in our academic community is left behind and that our students, staff, and faculty are all cared for. We continue to focus on safety and actively monitor the situation in Israel.

This past year, to say the least, has not been easy. Approximately 20% of our students were called up into the reserves at some point during the year, and we adapt to the best of our ability. Our researchers, too, have been facing significant challenges. Despite everything, they have made new discoveries, penned articles in top journals, asked hard questions, and searched for the right answers—including about all aspects of this heartbreaking year. Intellectual autonomy is a foundational principle for academia, and we have more academic freedom here than the majority of other universities around the world, including those in the United States.

I recognize that this year has also been hard for many other universities, and that you continue to face your own challenges with campus division and with questions of free speech and its limits. Calls for the academic boycott of Israel continue to be heard, putting in danger the academic freedom that universities so cherish. This is an opportunity to thank those academic leaders who speak against this trend, and for your clarity of vision and for continuing to show others why these boycott proposals are dangerous and antithetical to our foundational principles. Thank you to the European Commission, the rectors of Dutch universities, the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany, and so many others. All of you are an important voice in these difficult times.

Yours,
Milette

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**Featured**

**How TAU is Navigating Campus Coexistence**

When the first academic term after October 7 was about to begin, Prof. Neta Ziv, TAU’s vice president of equity, diversity and community, wasn’t sure exactly what to expect, however she knew it would be complicated.

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**In Other News**

**Andi Murez Carries Flag at Paris Olympics**

For Andrea “Andi” Murez—a newly-minted Tel Aviv University (TAU) international medical school alumna and recipient of a TAU Sylvan Adams Olympic scholarship—being able to compete and carry Israel’s flag at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris has been one of the biggest honors of her life.

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**The Lowy International School Supports 25 New Joint International Projects**

Following calls for applications for joint projects, The Lowy International School at Tel Aviv University recently announced a call for applications. The initiative, which is open to joint applications by research teams from different institutions, aims to expand joint research activities, academic exchange and other forms of collaboration with partner institutions.

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**TAU Launches New MSc in Digital Health**

With artificial intelligence and other digital technologies revolutionizing nearly all aspects of healthcare, TAU is launching the MSc in Digital Health—a new master’s program anchored in a multinational network, which aims to equip those in healthcare with the tools they need to thrive in this new reality.

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**Global Day of Engagement: Celebrating International Ties**

On July 25, The Lowy International School hosted visits from Columbia University faculty, leadership of several Indian universities and a large group of American undergraduate students.

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**TAU is Going Abroad**

This year, with the largest turnout ever, The Lowy International School once again held an event for upcoming outgoing exchange students. Approximately 140 Tel Aviv University undergraduate and graduate students attended as they prepared to study at universities in Europe, Asia, Australia, North America and elsewhere.

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