



TECHNION NEWS

Newsletter of the Canadian Technion Society

March 2010

Happy Passover

*Wishing you a
Passover filled with
promise.*



הטכניון - מכון טכנולוגי לישראל

לשכת הנשיא Office of the President

TECHNION - ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



Dear Friends,

On October 1st I have assumed the position of the President of the Technion. I did so with feelings of pride and sense of a mission. The task is formidable. The Technion is one of the most important universities in our country. Its contribution to the State of Israel can be attested by its 80,000 graduates who have changed the face of the country as well as its life. Putting it plainly and bluntly: without Technion, Israel would be a radically different country. Technion graduates have taken a key role in reshaping this country.

I believe that the most important asset of any university is its faculty members. The quality of a university's faculty members determines the quality of its research and teaching and its national and international status. Excellent faculty members attract excellent students. I plan to

take an active role in recruiting the best faculty members to the Technion. This will be my top priority in the years ahead.

An additional essential component for the success of an academic institution is the quality of its students. We have to make an extra effort to attract to the Technion the best students in Israel and convince them why is it worthwhile and appropriate to invest in studies at the Technion and "only at the Technion". To do that we have to "make them feel at home and cared for".

The Canadian Technion Society, one of the oldest Technion Societies worldwide, has made immensely important contributions to Technion. Canadian footprints can be found throughout the Technion campus and we are grateful for that. I look forward to meet you either in Canada or in Haifa. With your dedication and support, I am confident in our success.

Professor Peretz Lavie
President, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

A Message from the National President



Gary Goldberg

We are well aware of the important role that Technion –Israel Institute of Technology plays in providing the teaching and research facilities required to instruct and equip successive cohorts of scientists, engineers, physicians and entrepreneurs in Israel with the skills and experience necessary to contribute and succeed in a competitive world.

I encourage you to investigate ways in which you can support and assist this essential and influential national institution. We, at Canadian Technion Society, are pleased to provide you with the information you may need to make decisions regarding that support, and answer questions that you may have about Technion, its role and operations, and the stimulative impact it has on Israel's infrastructure development, security, and economy.

In this edition you will read about various activities of CTS and Technion. I am particularly pleased to advise you that a University of Toronto - Technion Medical Student Research Exchange Program has been initiated. Applications have been distributed by Technion and the University of Toronto for this new program, which will allow a University of Toronto medical student the opportunity to conduct an 8 week summer research project at the Ruth & Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and for a faculty member here at the University of Toronto to supervise a Technion medical student in Toronto.

The goal of this program is to support the paradigm of fostering international scientific research communication and collaboration at a very formative stage of student training between the two medical schools. Both these institutions have excellent and well recognized medical educational programs producing graduates who are not only top clinicians but also leading clinician-scientists in health research.

A generous donor has provided support for one student per year for five years by making a gift of \$40,000 to CTS.

The Concordia and Technion Student Exchange Agreement, which supports the promotion of academic collaboration, student exchange programs and research internships between the two institutions, is being promoted by the John Molson MBA Program at Concordia University. Students interested may be eligible for travel and accommodation funds through the Goldie and Joe Raymer Travel Fellowship, which continues to be supported by Susan Raymer and Ben Wygodny.

These examples of inter-university co-operation will help to strengthen ties and encourage greater knowledge sharing and academic collaboration between Israel and Canada.

In closing, let me suggest that the best way to learn about Technion is to visit Israel, tour our campus, meet our students, and admire what is being accomplished at this great university.

A Message from the National Chair



Doreen Green

I am not a scientist nor an engineer or even a technology expert, in fact my first interest in university was music and my final degree was in law. However, I'm proud to say that I am part of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology team whose pioneering work in nanotechnology, computer science, biotechnology, water-resource management, materials engineering, aerospace and medicine have earned it a worldwide reputation.

A reputation derived from such work as:

- Profs. Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover's discovery of the crucial role of ubiquitin in the process of protein breakdown in cells - for which they were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2004;
- Profs. Uri Sivan, Erez Braun and Yoav Eichen who used DNA strands to assemble a conductive wire 1,000 times thinner than a human hair;
- the Lempel/Ziv Algorithm, developed by Prof. Abraham Lempel from Computer Science and Prof. Jacob Ziv from Electrical Engineering, which has become an international standard for data compression and an IEEE Milestone;
- Prof. Karl Skorecki discovery of genetic proof that all Jews belonging to the Cohen lineage are descendants of the biblical high priest Aaron Hacoheh;
- Profs. Moussa Youdim and John Finberg from the Faculty of Medicine, together with Teva Pharmaceuticals, who developed rasagaline, an new anti-Parkinson's disease drug (Azilect®);
- the fact that the Technion is one of a handful of universities worldwide with a student program to design,

build, and launch their own satellites - the Gurwin TechSat II microsatellite has successfully been in orbit since July 1998.

I am part of this outstanding team because I am a member and supporter of the Canadian Technion Society, one of the oldest Technion Societies worldwide. Societies which support Technion by generously funding scholarships, faculty chairs, and projects including new buildings, dormitories, laboratories and Interdisciplinary Research Centers of Excellence.

Think about it. By becoming a member, or sending a Tribute card, or attending a Gala or a program in your region, or including a bequest to Technion, you too can be a part of that prestigious team.

As they say – membership has its privileges – and the privilege of being a member of the Canadian Technion Society is being able to share in the pride of each discovery, each breakthrough that will help make the world a better place.

Join me! Make your support known by calling 1-800-935-8864, emailing info@cdntech.org or by going to our website and making your donation through our secure online donation link.

And stay in contact with us by sharing your email address. That way we can update you on the latest happenings at Technion.

Wishing you and your family peace, good times, good health and happiness on Passover and always.

We Have the Power

Technion friends nurture the future by supporting a science and technology research university dedicated to the creation of knowledge and the development of human capital and leadership for the advancement of the state of israel and all humanity.

Support can come in many forms. Get involved in your Regional Council and help create awareness of this outstanding institution by helping plan events and other programs.

The Canadian Technion Society now offers its donors a safe and secure way of making their contributions online. Just click onto the **DONATE NOW** icon on our website <http://www.cdntech.org/>

Make a contribution - it can be large or small contribution - an endowment for a perpetual scholarship, a room in the new Canadian Residences, a bequest a tribute card in honour or in memory of someone special or become a member of the Canadian technion Society.

Together we have the power to make a difference and the world becomes a better place.

Older Donors Do It Online Too



Many charities see the internet as a way to communicate with the youth market, but it's not just the young and hip who are online. Older donors are valuable and ignored at your peril, says Jonathan Waddingham, a Digital Strategist at JustGiving in London.

"It's a fact that many charities rely on the 'Dorothy donor' demographic for support, yet they want to attract and recruit baby boomers and the nascent generation Y. In many cases they go online to find that younger demographic, assuming that only those under 35 will be on Facebook, Twitter and the rest. The internet is still seen, for some at least, as the playground of the young. Our experience shows that the opposite is true – older supporters are going online more and more.

The Canadian Technion Society knows this to a fact. Recently an email was sent out to our supporters (those whose email addresses we have) announcing that we now have an on-line donation option. We were thrilled to receive our first response within twenty minutes. And for those of you who expect that it was from some 20 to 40 year old supporter, you are dead wrong. Our first response was from Mr. Lou Ronson, who doesn't mind that we share his age with you – 95 years young. Mr. Ronson is a long time supporter of the Canadian Technion Society and a true community supporter.

Technion International School of Engineering Students Create Video

Students in the inaugural class of the Technion International School of Engineering have produced a video for YouTube, the popular self-broadcasting website. The video offers views of the school's facilities and a look at student life on and off the Technion campus. The International School held its opening ceremony in August, and welcomed its first 23 students. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9Tty6R7RH0>

The Technion Israel Institute of Technology is among the top 25 engineering universities in the world and has started a brand new International School, which boasts 23 students from 14 countries (America, Israel, India, China, South Africa, Ghana, Guinea, France, Denmark, Italy, Albania, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru) who are currently studying in a 4 month mechina (preparation period) preceding their 4 year degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering.



Open Youniversity - YouTube Enables Youniversal Access to Technion Videos



The Technion's own YouTube channel provides a global classroom with a portal to academic videos, lectures by Nobel Laureates and other prizewinners, general information about the Technion and more.

Watch Technion films and lectures on the education channel of YouTube, the video-sharing website. <http://www.youtube.com/Technion>

YouTube has incorporated European University partners to their new and improved EDU platform, and Technion's channel was included at launch on October 1, 2009. "YouTube EDU is a global classroom where everyone -- from those who want to see what university courses are like, to intellectually curious graduates -- can watch and engage with a range of academic videos that have been uploaded by some of the world's most prestigious universities," said Anna de Paula Hanika of YouTube EDU, "Our education destination is a direct response to our community's interest in this type of content and we look forward to adding even more institutions over time."

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Canadian Technion Society's 25th Montreal Gala

An wonderfully successful Gala Dinner was held November 29, 2009 in honour of Donald J. Johnston P.C., O.C., Q.C. In her presentation to Mr. Johnston, Pearl Sperber Gameraoff, event chair, noted that his life reflects a commitment to Tikkun Olam - whether it was to become involved politically here in Canada, to assume the leadership role as Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or to serve as senior adviser to the McCall McBain Foundation which is focuses on education, health and sustainable development especially in the developing world - all these illustrate his passion for social justice and making the world a better place.

The guest speaker was Canadian Supreme Court Justice Morris Fish and entertainment was provided by Bowser and Blue. The event focused its fundraising efforts on the New Technion Energy Program. In recognition of the Honourable Mr. Johnston, three Masters Fellowships and a Doctoral Fellowship will be awarded in his name to outstanding graduate students in Technion's New Energy Program.



Technion Associate Professor on Sabbatical at the Université du Montréal



Professor Tal Mor's first attempt at cross country skiing

Once again Montreal is privileged to have a Technion Professor choose our city to spend his sabbatical year. Prof. Tal Mor is doing just that at the Université du Montréal in the Faculty of Computer Science (DIRO).

Prof. Mor is an Associate Prof. in the Computer Science Department of Technion, where he has been a faculty member since 2001. Born and raised in Israel, Prof. Mor received his B.Sc. in Physics and Computer Science at Tel Aviv University; his M.Sc. in Physics, also at Tel Aviv University; and his Ph.D. in Physics at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology. He was a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Computer Science, Université de Montréal and then in Electrical Engineering at UCLA. He has been actively

involved in ongoing collaboration with the theoretical quantum information and computation group at Université de Montréal's DIRO for more than a decade, in particular with his host Prof. Gilles Brassard, a key founder of the field of quantum information, computation and cryptography.

Prof. Mor's main research interest is the investigation of new models of quantum computation and information processing. He is interested in finding

new applications in this area, in reaching a better understanding of the existing applications, and in investigating the persistence of these applications in various realistic scenarios that have practical importance. His primary intent is to lay the conceptual foundations which will allow researchers to take the field from theory to the world of practical implementations, where analysis of security and analysis of computing power are still in their initial stages, and to offer important near-future applications of quantum information processing. His interest in theoretical and practical quantum information processing is, in large part, a result of his strong tendency towards interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary thinking.

Among Prof. Mor's most significant research contributions are the proof of security of theoretical quantum key distribution, the photon-number-splitting attack on practical quantum key distribution, the algorithmic cooling of spins, for which he also has a US patent, and quantum non-locality without entanglement. His recent work on semi-quantum key distribution was featured in the popular magazine New Scientist. Prof. Mor is currently a member of the editorial board of Elsevier's journal Theoretical Computer Science.

Prof. Mor is here on sabbatical with his wife, Dr. Ilana Frank Mor, who is originally from Montreal, and their two young sons, Ayal and Erez, who are attending Jewish People's and Peretz School. His older son Rotem remained in Israel to attend Grade 11 at Nahalal High School.

We welcome Prof. Mor to Montreal, we wish him a fruitful year (including successful cross-country skiing), and we look forward to many opportunities to hear about Technion from him.

Profile of a CTS Board Member



Dr. Rose Goldstein

The Canadian Technion Society is proud of its dedicated Board Members who share their time, their expertise and resources to further the mission of the CTS and in a continuing series of profiles we would like introduce Dr. Rose Goldstein.

Dr. Rose Goldstein is Vice President, (Research) at the University of Calgary. Dr. Goldstein received her bachelor of science degree (1975) and medical degree (1979) from McGill University, Montreal and trained in Internal Medicine at the Universities of Toronto and Ottawa. She completed her training in Rheumatology at the University of Ottawa and undertook post-graduate research training as a Medical Research Council of Canada Research Fellow at the University of Texas at Houston. From 1988 to 2007, Dr. Goldstein was a member of the Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa in the Division of Rheumatology. She has been an Ontario Ministry of Health Career Scientist and an Arthritis Society Research Scholar. Her research interests are in immunogenetics of rheumatic disease and cellular mechanisms in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. Goldstein's

clinical activities include general rheumatology with an interest in osteoporosis and Women's Health.

Dr. Goldstein has served in various positions in the Dean's office at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. From 2003-2007 she served as Vice Dean, Academic Affairs. In 2001 Dr. Goldstein became the founding Director of the Ottawa Academic Health Sciences Leadership Program. In collaboration with the Faculty of Law, she designs and delivers conflict resolution training to medical students, staff, and faculty and is studying the role of conflict resolution training in the support and development of physician competencies. This work has received grants from the AMS/Wilson Foundation and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a 2007 award from the Canadian Council of Learning.

In 2001, Dr. Goldstein received a Women Liaison Officer Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). She received the first annual Canadian Medical Association (CMA) May Cohen Award for Women Mentors, as well as a University of Ottawa Faculty Award of Excellence, in 2002. Dr. Goldstein is married to Mark Hardy, surgical oncologist, and they have three sons. Her interests include reading, jogging and fitness activities, enjoying theatre and music, and spending time with family and friends.

New President of the Montreal Council



Peter Kovac

"We are a team and success will be realized if we all work hard towards the same goal."

Peter was born in Budapest Hungary. At a very young age he and his family moved to Israel before coming to Canada in 1952.

Peter graduated Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) with a B.A. majoring in Political Science. After graduation he joined the family business, Kovac Mfg Inc., where he was responsible for many facets of the business, including sales, production, management, personnel, acquisitions, new product developments, advertising, sourcing,

import management, and customer and supplier relations. In 2002 Peter moved to another business owned by the family, Le Bifftèque Boucherville.

Peter has been involved with the Technion for the past 15 years in such roles as chair of the Montreal Gala, treasurer of the Montreal Council, member of the National Board of the Canadian Technion Society and an alternate member of the Technion Board of Governors.

Peter and his wife Ruth, a city councillor for the city of Cote St. Luc and an active volunteer in many charities, have 3 children. All three live in Montreal so Peter and Ruth are fortunate to be able to spend lots of time with them and their 3 grandchildren.

Peter's approach to leadership is to recruit a team to work together with him to share their experience in community, business and life in general in order to develop plans and opportunities to educate the community about Technion and its world recognized role in scientific and technological education and research and to increase the financial support for Technion.



The Morley Blankstein Academic Lecture at Technion Faculty of Architecture & Town Planning

The Inaugural Blankstein Lecture, attended by approximately 100 students and professionals, took place on Monday, November 2, 2009 at the Technion Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning.

Jack Diamond Inaugural Speaker

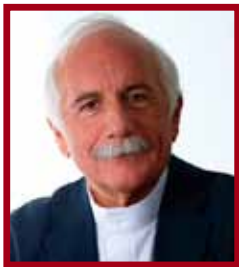
The first guest lecturer was the internationally acclaimed Canadian architect Jack Diamond. His topic for this first Blankstein Lecture was the "Resolution of Content and Context". Unfortunately, Morley and Marjorie Blankstein were unable attend due to an accident that Marjorie had just prior to departure.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009 Mr. Diamond gave an informal lecture to 60 graduate students. Topics included: opening your own architecture firm and listening to your clients desires. Following the lecture, several students and faculty joined Mr. Diamond for lunch, during which he interacted with the students and was interested in knowing their views on current architecture and their dreams for the future.



Associate Professor Rikva Oxman, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Jack Diamond and Douglas Gilmour

Moshe Safdie will be the 2nd Blankstein Lecturer on April 14, 2010



Moshe Safdie, who was born in Haifa, Israel and moved to Canada with his family, where he graduated from McGill University with a degree in architecture. After apprenticing with Louis I. Kahn in Philadelphia, he returned to Montreal, taking charge of the master plan for the 1967 World Exhibition, where he also realized an adaptation of his thesis as Habitat '67, the central feature of the World's Fair.

In 1970, Safdie established a Jerusalem branch office, commencing an intense involvement with the rebuilding of Jerusalem. He was responsible for major segments of the restoration of the Old City and the reconstruction of the new center, linking the Old and New Cities. Over the years, his involvement expanded and included the new city of Modi'in, the new Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, and the Rabin Memorial Center. During this period, Safdie also became involved in the developing world, working in Senegal, Iran, Singapore, and in the northern Canadian arctic.

In 1978, Safdie relocated his residence and principal office to Boston, as he became Director of the Urban Design Program and the Ian Woodner Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

He is responsible for the design of six of Canada's principal public institutions, including the Quebec Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery of Canada, and Vancouver Library Square. His major commissions in the U.S. have included: the United States Institute of Peace Headquarters on the Mall in Washington, D.C.; the Skirball Museum and Cultural Center in Los Angeles, CA; the Eleanor Roosevelt College at the University of California in San Diego; the Springfield, MA, and Mobile, AL, Federal Courthouses; and the Kansas City, MO, Performing Arts Center. In addition to major works of urbanism, Safdie's current work includes two airports - Lester B. Pearson International Airport in Toronto and Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv.

Safdie has been the recipient of numerous awards, honorary degrees, and civil honours, including the Companion Order of Canada and the Gold Medal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.



Winnipeg to Welcome Professor Daniel Weihs on August 24, 2010



Very few people know they want to an aerospace engineer at age two, but Distinguished Technion Professor Daniel Weihs did.

As a child, Prof. Weihs lived near a US Air Force base in China, where he was born in 1942 after his parents fled Austria. The family was invited to attend a Seder at the base, during which one of the soldiers asked Danny what he wanted to be when he grew up. Inspired by the sight of the planes flying overhead in and out of the base, the toddler replied, "an aerospace engineer."

Even at that early age, Prof. Weihs had set his sights on the career in which he was to become one of the world's foremost experts, specializing in the areas of aerodynamics, biological fluid mechanics, hydrodynamics and space research. It was a career for which he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Technion, where he has been a member of the faculty and pursued his research for the last 34 years.

Following his doctoral degree, Prof. Weihs worked at the University of Cambridge, England as a researcher and then returned to the Technion as a senior lecturer in 1973. He became a full professor in 1983, a distinguished

professor in 2002 and currently holds the Louis and Lyra Richmond Chair in Life Sciences.

As fascinated with the natural world as he is with the world of high-tech, Prof. Weihs has adapted principles of natural phenomena in his high-tech research. His observation of dandelions led to his development nano-sized "parachutes" that can detect toxins in the air, and his studies of fish enabled him to improve submarine design and also helped prevent dolphins from being destroyed in the drift net fishing of the tuna industry. He has also studied birds to find ways to improve piloted and unmanned aerial vehicle performance.

Prof. Weihs has served the Technion as provost, dean of the graduate school and of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, director of the Samuel Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology and director of the Norman and Helen Asher Space Research Institute. Most recently, he has been selected to direct the university's planned Center for Autonomous Systems.



Nano-sized "Parachutes" that can detect toxins in the air

Technion Distinguished Professor Avram Hershko, Nobel Laureate, Visits Toronto

Distinguished Professor Avram Hershko, Nobel Laureate Chemistry 2004, was in Toronto to participate in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Canada Gairdner International Awards. Prof. Hershko received a Gairdner Award in 1999. While in Toronto Prof. Hershko attended a dinner with several active supporters of Technion in the home of Gary and Linda Goldberg on October 30, 2009.



Barrie Rose and Avram Hershko



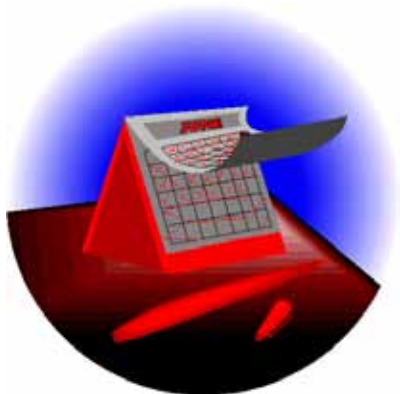
National President Gary Goldberg,
Avram Hershko and Naomi Azrieli



Toronto Council President, Richard Cooper,
Avram Hershko and Clara Cooper

**National Board Meeting of The Canadian Technion Society**

Professor Raphael Rom, Vice President for Resources Development and External Affairs was the guest speaker at Canadian Technion Society's November 30, 2009 National Board Meeting. He reported on some of the current projects underway at Technion, in particular the Technion New Energy Program. The meeting was hosted by the Azrieli Family and the Sofitel Golden Mile Hotel in Montreal. Several out of town Board Members and guests attended the meeting, in person, as they were already in Montreal for the 25th Montreal Gala, the evening before.



Mark your calendar and please join us for
the Canadian Technion Society's 2010
Annual General Meeting on
June 27, 2010, in Ottawa.



The future of Israel is in high-technology and the future of high-technology in Israel is at Technion.

A research team led by Professor Karl Skorecki and Dr. Doron Behar with colleagues at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Rambam Medical Center in Haifa and Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem and in collaboration with research colleagues at Tel Aviv University and the National Institutes of Health in the USA, **close in on genetic risk factors for common causes of advanced kidney disease.**

Technion researchers have developed a nano-delivery system made up of a chemical connection between a polysugar produced from the cypress tree with folic acid and an anticancer drug. The delivery system **leads the drug directly to the cancerous cell and releases it inside the cell.** Thus, the cancerous cell is destroyed without causing any damage to the healthy cells around it. The Technion development is especially efficient against ovarian, kidney and uterine cancer, which are characterized by folic acid receptors.

Students in the Technion's Faculty of Computer Science have built "Rahfan" – a micro robotic helicopter that navigates, photographs and manoeuvres independently. It can be used for special operations, observation and tracking. Prof. Ehud Rivlin, who leads the project on behalf of the Faculty, noted that "Using different sensors that we added to the Rahfan, we have given it the ability to detect obstacles and prevent collisions, maintain altitude and to orient itself using a three-dimension map."



Technion Visit by NASA Astronaut Christer Fuglesang



Technion President Peretz Lavie, Astronaut Christer Fuglesang and CTS President Gary Goldberg



Technion Aerospace Engineering Student, Yinon Yavor and Astronaut Christer Fuglesang

On January 26, 2010 **NASA astronaut Christer Fuglesang visited Technion and met with President Peretz Lavie** and discussed the impact of weightlessness on sleep. Dr. Fuglesang addressed high school students in the Churchill Auditorium and then led a seminar for graduate students from the Dept. of Aerospace Engineering. **Gary Goldberg, President of the Canadian Technion Society, accompanied Dr. Fuglesang on his week long trip to Israel for the 5th Annual Ilan Ramon Space conference and other dedication ceremonies.**

Swedish-born Fuglesang was a particle physicist prior to joining the European Space Agency, and has been at NASA since 1996. Fuglesang described the space missions in which he was involved, and shared his experiences with "basic training" at NASA, weightlessness, suiting up for spacewalks, and handling a 800-kg ammonia tank in space.

Technion Aerospace Engineering student Yinon Yavor acted as the student guide at Technion. **Yinon is a past recipient of the Goldie and Joe Raymer Scholarship for exchange students between Technion and Concordia University.**

This year he was received one of the two prestigious Ilan Ramon Scholarships granted by the Israel Ministry of Science. The scholarship was presented January 27 to Yinon by Mrs. Rona Ramon and the Minister of Science (and Technion professor) Daniel Heshkovitch during the opening of the Ramon Space Conference whose Keynote Speaker was Charles Bolden, the NASA Administrator (CEO)

The scholarship was established to honour the memory of the first Israeli astronaut, Col. Ilan Ramon, who died while courageously exploring the final frontier of space. Ramon made the ultimate sacrifice while living his commitment to space and to international cooperation amongst the nations of the Earth.