

The Lure Of Technion

Dean and students visit Metro Detroit.



Technion student Marina Toger, American Technion Society Detroit Chapter President Hannan Lis, Technion student Guy Bershadsky, Jason Teshuba, co-founder and co-owner of Mango Languages, Technion Dean and Prof. Zalman Palmor, ATS Detroit staffer Leah Colmer

Leah Colmer

Special to the Jewish News

International intrigue. Daring rescues and narrow escapes. Trans-Atlantic crossings. Scientific discoveries. Evening soirees and “love triangles.”

Sound like the storyline out of your latest spy novel? Yet, the people involved are very real. The thread they have in common isn't the CIA, the latest Jason Bourne movie or Mossad, but the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, home to three Nobel Prizes.

Meet the 2012 Technion Dean and Student Delegation trio led by Prof. Zalman Palmor, deputy executive vice president for academic affairs; with Marina Toger, a master's student in the faculty of architecture and town planning; and Guy Bershadsky, a medical and electrical engineering student, who were here in Detroit for a whirlwind two-day tour, March 8-10 to share their life experiences and talk of the latest scoops in technology.

With this year heralding Technion's centennial, and close on the heels of announcements in December of a partnership with Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and another Nobel Prize in chemistry, this distinguished delegation trio had more requests for appearances than time permitted.

Lawrence Tech University, Henry Ford Innovation Center, Wayne State's Tech Town, BBYO, the Jewish Student Union of North Farmington High School, Mango Languages and dinner socials were some of the forums where the delegation presented.

At the heart of each personal message is a flourishing love triangle made up of technology, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit that is the pulse point of their lives, and the very heartbeat of the Technion.

Born in Russia to parents who narrowly escaped the Nazis in 1939, from Warsaw, Prof. Palmor is now renowned in the field of mechanical engineering, having been published in nearly 100 leading international journals and invited to speak at symposiums worldwide. In a true collaboration typical of the Technion, he and his students have developed algorithms that have been installed globally.

An expert sailor, with 30,000 miles logged on the open sea, Toger's life took a dramatic turn during her third trans-Atlantic crossing. It was then that she noticed the increasing accumulation of pollution in the ocean.

“It was terrible to see this huge pool of swirling plastic that had grown since my last crossing. I felt motivated to do something.” Upon returning to the Technion, Marina took her career in a new direction. She is planning her doctoral degree and intends to work in the field of sustainable urban planning.

As a volunteer medic in the Carmel and Western Galilee rescue unit, and a combat soldier in the IDF, Bershadsky has seen his share of danger. Initially an electrical engineering major, Bershadsky tenaciously pursued his passion to gain entrance into the highly competitive field of medicine. “Today's medicine relies more and more on high tech,” he said.

He believes the two fields interplay perfectly and is using his electrical engineering expertise in the cutting edge area of neuroscience.

“The Technion graduates don't just get a degree,” declared Palmor. “They go out and change the world.”

For more information on the American Technion Society, call (248) 737-1991 or email leah@ats.org. □

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