Letter from the President

Dear Alumni,

The last few months have been extremely productive at the Weizmann Institute of Science. The world’s highest-ranking prize in computer science, the A.M. Turing Award, went this year to Prof. Shafi Goldwasser of the Department of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics. She became the third Weizmann Institute scientist to receive this award, following in the footsteps of the late Prof. Amir Pnueli (1996) and Prof. Adi Shamir (2002). The award recognizes her pioneering work in formal security definitions that are now the gold standard for security in Internet transactions.

We have recently hired an outstanding crop of young scientists. Three of them are women, and all of these women are former recipients of funding awards through the National Postdoctoral Program for Advancing Women in Science, which was established by the Weizmann Institute in 2007 to support Israeli women in their postdoc years abroad. We are thrilled to see that this program is bearing fruit and enabling women to invest in careers in science and launch careers in academia, as well as industry, here in Israel.

As President, it is my job to nurture the vibrant intellectual environment that makes the Weizmann Institute an attractive place for students to pursue advanced degrees in the sciences and for faculty to pursue careers. That goal requires the involvement not only of those of us who are physically on campus but also of our wider community—alumni, collaborating scientists, donors, friends and beyond—who together and in diverse ways play important roles in the Institute’s current and future success. This is the Weizmann Institute global family.

The Alumni Organization is key to this goal, because it allows us a conduit to keep in touch with our alumni, whose careers are built on the strong foundation of a Weizmann Institute graduate education and who care about the future of the Institute. The Alumni Organization offers opportunities for our 6,000 graduates to connect to each other and reconnect with members of the Weizmann Institute community on campus. This e-newsletter is distributed to our graduates twice a year as part of our communications outreach.

Following on the heels of two highly successful alumni reunions—for the Faculty of Physics in 2012 and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science in 2011—we are planning a reunion for the Faculty of Chemistry alumni this fall. So, Chemistry grads: Please mark your calendars for October 3, 2013, for what promises to be a lively reunion here on campus.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy summer,

Sincerely,

Prof. Daniel Zajfman, President

Weizmann Institute of Science