

News Release

**Leading lawyers, philosophers, scientists, philanthropists
Among ten receiving honorary doctorates at Hebrew University**

Jerusalem, May 27, 2008 – Leading international human rights advocate Catharine MacKinnon, French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy, American biotechnologist Charles Arntzen, British pioneer of Jewish education Fred Worms and Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin will be among 10 distinguished figures to receive honorary doctor of philosophy degrees on Sunday, June 1, at the opening session of the 71st meeting of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Board of Governors

Prof. Catharine MacKinnon, professor of law at the University of Michigan, is a pioneering lawyer of international renown, a leader in feminist jurisprudence and an international human rights advocate. She has broken new ground in gender equality in both international and constitutional law. Her insights on the legal concept of equality have transformed legal and philosophical thinking of sexual harassment, pornography, free speech and international law. She has acted on behalf of women victims of ethnic and national conflicts in the international courts.

Bernard-Henri Lévy is one of today's most respected thinkers and founder of the New Philosophers school. A philosopher, author, columnist and filmmaker, he has dedicated his life to humanitarian causes and researched and written in countries such as Sri Lanka, Bosnia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 1995, he was awarded the Bosnian Legion of Honour in recognition of his investigation of the internecine killing during the war of independence. He is a columnist for Le Point magazine and the author of a number of books, including *Who Killed Daniel Pearl?* (2003).

Prof. Charles J. Arntzen, co-director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology at the Arizona Biodesign Institute, is a pioneer in the development of plant-based vaccines. He was among the first to identify the potential application of molecular biology to plant science and went on to establish an entirely new field in biotechnology. His development of low-cost, sustainable and easily administered methods of human and animal immunization has brought hope for the prevention of diseases such as hepatitis and cholera throughout the world. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a recipient of the US Department of Agriculture's Award for Superior Service.

Prof. Harry L. Swinney, director of the Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics at the University of Texas, is a pioneering researcher in nonlinear physics. His work in pattern-forming systems has provided important insights into the nonlinear mechanisms that underlie the coexistence of order and disorder in nature. His laboratory studies of planetary flows have provided fundamental understanding of phenomena such as the Great Red Spot of Jupiter while also pointing to their ecological implications. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fred Worms OBE is a visionary who pioneered the revival of Jewish education in the United Kingdom for over fifty years. He is a devoted friend and supporter of the Hebrew University, whose many efforts, in particular toward the Scopus Student Village, have had a profound impact on the lives of the University's students. Chairman of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and B'nai B'rith International, he is a co-founder of Immanuel College Jewish secondary school. He was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1998 in recognition of his services to the elderly.

Heidi Rothberg is a prominent lay leader in the United States whose keen interest and active commitment perpetuate the legacy of philanthropy instilled in her by her parents Jean and the late Sam Rothberg. A governor of the Hebrew University, she is also chairperson of the Board of Overseers of the Rothberg International School and a former trustee of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. In addition to her thirty year support of the University, she also supports many other causes in Israel.

Harry Triguboff is a successful business leader and steadfast supporter of education, medical research and Jewish causes in Australia. One of Australia's most prominent property developers, he is a longtime proponent of the Hebrew University. He supports a number of causes in Australia, including medical research in cancer and childhood diseases, Jewish education and national identity programs.

Prof. Werner Eck is a world-renowned historian of Imperial Rome and acknowledged master of the study of epigraphy and prosopography, which he has transformed into an analytical art of reconstruction and interpretation of historical processes and political careers. Professor emeritus of Ancient History at the University of Cologne, he is the editor of the Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, and a recipient of numerous honors, including the prestigious Max Planck Prize for Humanities and the Koln Prize.

Ohad Naharin, one of Israel's leading choreographers and dancers and a world leader in the field of modern dance, made his mark on the local and international cultural scene through his contemporary productions and unique body movement. Since 1990, he has been the artistic director of the Batsheva dance company for whom he has composed over twenty works. The French government crowned him the "Knight of the Order of the Arts", and he was twice awarded the renowned Bessie Award in New York for his outstanding achievements and innovations in dance. In 2005 he was awarded the Israel Prize.

Michal Rovner, a contemporary artist, known for her work in video, installation, photography and sculpture, made her mark in contemporary art through her outstanding creative works and innovations. Her works have been exhibited in leading modern art museums the world over, including the Tate Modern in London, the Jue De Paume museum in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Rovner was commissioned by Yad Vashem to create her work "Living Landscape", the opening chapter for the new Holocaust memorial museum.

In addition, the Solomon Bublick Prize will be awarded to Prof. Zeev Tzahor and the Samuel Rothberg Prize to former Meimad MK Tova Ilan.

For more information, or for press contact with students, faculty or spokespersons from HU, please speak in the first instance to Mikki Saperia, on +44 (0)20 7691 1479 or email mikki.saperia@bfhu.org.



About the Hebrew University

With 24,000 full-time students, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is Israel's pre-eminent institute of higher education. Its faculty members pursue projects that are both essential to Israel's future and the benefit of humanity. It is a centre of international repute, with formal and informal ties extending to and from the worldwide scientific and academic community. Students come from all over Israel and across the Middle East to study in an atmosphere of academic and research excellence.

About the British Friends of the Hebrew University

Established in 1926, The British Friends of the Hebrew University is the oldest established Jewish charity in support of higher education. The charity works to promote and enhance the reputation of the Hebrew University, ensure that underprivileged students are given the opportunity to complete their studies, and help HU to maintain its standard of excellence and worldwide reputation for research.

BFHU acts as the UK's gateway to Hebrew University research, expertise and faculty, and provides financial and pastoral support for prospective and current students at HU, as well as supporting visiting and sabbatical Hebrew University lecturers during their time in the UK.