

re/summer 04/on campus/ELEM-Besen brief + photo

### **First ELEM-Besen Conference on Youth at Risk**

Drug abuse by teenage girls and young women was the subject of the first Biannual ELEM-Besen Family Foundation Conference on Youth at Risk, held at TAU's Bob Shapell School of Social Work. The conference was co-hosted by the school's Interdisciplinary Center for Children and Youth Studies together with the ELEM and Ashalim non-profit organizations and Israel's Ministry of Welfare.

Opening remarks were delivered by TAU Vice President Yehiel Ben-Zvi, who thanked the Australian donors, TAU Honorary Doctor Marc Besen and his wife Eva, for supporting the twice-yearly event. "This is yet one more example," he said, "of Marc and Eva's deep commitment to a wide range of charitable and cultural causes and institutions both in Australia and in Israel, and particularly at Tel Aviv University."

Prominent members of the Australian Jewish community, the Besens have been active contributors to the university's development for upward of 20 years, Ben-Zvi said.

The conference provided a broad overview for professionals and policy makers of the causes and treatment of drug addiction among women under 25 years of age. Chairing the steering committee was Dr. Miriam Golan of the Interdisciplinary Center.

#### **PHOTO:**

Eva and Marc Besen (center) are pictured here with Yehiel Ben-Zvi and Nava Barak, ELEM Honorary President.