We bid farewell to:

A Lasting Vision: Dandin's Mirror in the World of Asian Letters
Research Group

nikkam 'aina indra nīlam' ŏkkaṭi cālu

taḷuku bĕḷuku rāḷḷu taṭṭĕḍ' ela

cāṭu-padyam' ŏkaṭi cāladā bhuvilona

viśvadâbhirāma vinura vema

viśvadâbhirāma vinura vema

Who needs a basketful of glittering stones?
One true blue sapphire will suffice.
In this world, one good poem
will do.

Attributed to Vemana, translated from Telugu,
by V. Narayana Rao and David Shulman

On the right: Tom Hunter (University of British Columbia), an invited speaker to the group's conference and a past IIAS Fellow, playing the sarod

Knowledge Sharing with R&D University Authorities Worldwide

January 25 – 27, 2016, the IIAS welcomed representatives of the NIH (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, USA) to introduce and explain the procedures in applying for Federal Grants. The workshop – The Uniform Guidance Federal Grants Workshops – was coordinated by the Research and Development office of The Hebrew University.

IIAS WEBSITE: www.as.huji.ac.il

We bid farewell to:

Computability: Historical, Logical & Philosophical Foundations
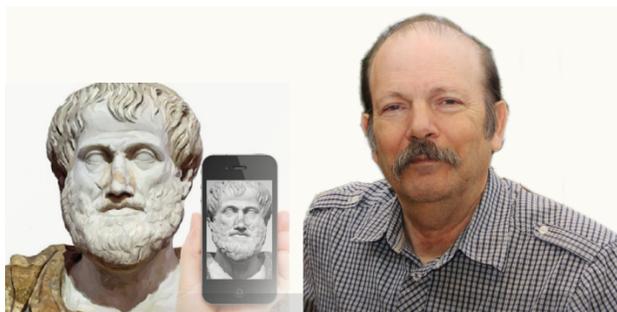Research Group

Avi Wigderson

Prof. **Avi Wigderson** (IAS Princeton), who lectured during the **Ada Lovelace Bicentenary Lecture Series,** drew a broad view of the discipline of computing and placed it in the context of other natural sciences and philosophy. He described major discoveries made in this field over the past several decades and the remarkable structure that they revealed. Concretely, he surveyed some important aspects of this body of work, including the tools of reduction and completeness, the reasons for clustering (which go to the very definition of computation by Turing), and the major challenges that we face as we seek a better understanding of this universe.

Outreach Lecture
From Aristotle to the iPhone

On January 19, 2016, **Moshe Vardi** (Rice University) presented an outreach lecture, *From Aristotle to the iPhone*. Logic began as a branch of philosophy, beginning in the classical period of ancient Greece. Moshe's talk focused on how the development of logic led to the development of computers, tracing the often surprising path from Aristotle to the iPhone.

Watch the video of the recorded lecture

Moshe Vardi

Joint Project: IIAS & the Federmann Center for the Study of Rationality
Foundations of Human Culture

The weekly seminar on *Foundations of Human Culture* is a pilot project initiated in October 2014 by **Shlomo (Zami) Ben-Sasson** (HUJI). This multidisciplinary, multiyear seminar attempts to define the unique features of different cultures and to trace their origins. To this end, experts in the fields who may shed light on these issues gather every week for two hours of seminar/open discussion. During the first year the focus was on the biological basis of human uniqueness - from genes to brain function. Morality, emotions, personality, values and languages were covered. The current second year focuses on a tour among different cultures and civilizations. After three semesters and 30 lectures it is clear that the riddle is yet to be solved. The upcoming phase of is to identify important points of agreements and disagreements related to the uniqueness of culture and its origins, and to dedicate mini-symposia to each of these topics for the coming semester.

International Conference
Quantum Field Theory, String Theory and Beyond

Quantum Field Theory, String Theory and Beyond, an international conference organized by **Ofer Aharony** (Weizmann Institute), Michael Bruno laureate for 2015, will take place at the IIAS February 28 - March 3, 2016. The conference will include talks on the latest developments in all aspects of quantum field theory and string theory. During the first two days of the conference, February 28th & 29th, we will be celebrating the 75th birthday of **David Gross**, Nobel laureate 2004.

David Gross

Upcoming Events

March 6-18.2016 ~ Human Dignity Intercontinental Academy

April 10-14.2016 ~ EURIAS - NetIAS Network of Institutes of Advanced Study, Fellows & Directors Meeting