



Vice President for External Relations
and Resource Development
Division of Marketing & Media

At a Glance

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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1

Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism, University of Haifa Honorary Doctorate recipient, recently visited the campus. Kenney, who was here as part of the Canadian Prime Minister's delegation visiting Israel, separated from his government colleagues for a few hours to meet with students participating in the different campus programs. Among them the International Master's Program in Holocaust Studies at the Strochlitz Institute. It was at a gala dinner to benefit these scholarships in Canada that Kenney was awarded his Honorary Doctorate.



2

Rabbi Sergio Bergman, member of the Argentinean parliament and personal friend of Pope Francis, also visited the campus. The Rabbi came to promote links with the Friends of the University in Argentina. He was particularly interested in the University's social projects, such as the Flagship Program to Prevent Social Exclusion, and the project for Shared Citizenship to further coexistence. The Rabbi was impressed with the social activities taking place on campus and singled out the Breaking the Ice program for praise, in which the Jewish-Arab Center and the Dean of Students are participating. Rabbi Bergman was impressed by the Breaking the Ice exhibition of photos from the project of the same name being displayed on campus.



3

Friends of the University in the United States invited the leaders of the San Francisco community to 'A Conversation with Ami Ayalon (Chairman of the Executive Committee). The event was hosted in the house of Ingrid Tauber, sister of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Prof. Alfred Tauber. Present, amongst others, were Maurice Kanbar, Phyllis Cook and Anita Friedman. The meeting was very successful and presented some of the University's research in various different areas.



4

Happy Birthday to the Chaiklin Chair! The Chaiklin Chair of Geostrategy, headed by Prof. Arnon Sofer, celebrated its tenth anniversary, with a scholarship award ceremony and a tour of the Seam Line (Green Line). "I am happy that, throughout the last ten years, we've invested most of our budget in research and scientific publications," said Prof. Soffer. Among the Chair publications in the last few years, many have been in cooperation with students at the National Security College which studied at the University, such as The Tel-Aviv State, Israel in 2020, A Geo-Strategic Analysis of Syria and more.



5

Hundreds of tourism researchers, tour guides and guests, among them the Tourism Ministry Director-General Amir Halevy, and Mayor Yona Yahav, attended the Haifa Tourism Conference 5, held by the School of Tourism and the Center for Tourism, Pilgrimage & Recreation Research. The conference dealt with the subject of innovation in hotel and tourism industry and included an exhibition on technological developments in this area and workshop sessions discussing hotel and tourism from various angles. One of the most prominent guests at the conference was Yossi Shatar, representative of the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Israel who said "From the beginning March 2014 to 2015 tourist ships will not come to Israel".



6

The Faculty of Humanities has been awarded two grants totaling NIS 4.25 million from the Humanities Fund of Yad HaNadiv (The Rothschild Foundation), in conjunction with the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) of the Council for Higher Education of Israel. This is an impressive achievement given the fact that the University was awarded two of the three grants given by the Fund. The first grant was awarded as the result of the proposal of Prof. Gur Alroy, Head of the School of History, and the second from Prof. Rotem Kowner from the Department of Asian Studies.



7

Azaria Alon, founder of Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, and Israel Prize laureate for his life's work, has just passed away, only months after opening the exhibition of the photographs he had taken which is displayed in the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi, from the Department of Land of Israel Studies, and one of the initiators of a recent symposium held in honor of Alon, was interviewed by Israel Radio "The symposium was fated and a high point, marking Azariah's 95 years, where all the veterans and founders of the Society gathered in his honor, together with young researchers". The seminar and exhibition of



8

In honor of the end of the fall semester, Knesset Member Stav Shafir was invited to speak to students as part of Dr. Asaf Turgeman's course at the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies. M.K. Shafir spoke on the ability of leadership to develop from the grass roots and create change. She explained that thousands of people who take to the streets have less influence than those who register for political parties. During the lecture she compared her ability to bring about change before she entered the Knesset with her ability to do so afterwards. She cited the example of a recent petition she submitted to the Supreme Court against the Finance Committee, and



his photos (on display at the University's Spirit of Israel Gallery until the end of February) were reported on Israel TV's *Channel 1*, the *NRG* website and the *Maariv* newspaper.

9

As part of the development of the new field of research dealing with the Caucasus region, The Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies held an event to mark '[Bloody January](#)', which took place in the 1990s in Azerbaijan as part of the country's struggle for independence from the Soviet Union. The event was attended by researchers from the Center, headed by Dr. Soli Shahvar, the head of the Israel-Azerbaijan International Association, families and friends of the three Jews killed in the riots, the leader of the Azeri community in Israel, witnesses who gave personal testimonies and the photographer Boris Dubin who himself had been at the riots working as an Azeri police traffic photographer. An exhibition of his photographs from that time was on display at the entrance to the event. The occasion was widely reported in the Azeri media, including the State Telegraphic Agency [AzerTAc](#).



Finance Minister Yair Lapid, claiming that "The Ministry of finance is breaking the Basic Law: the State Economy.

10

The [Refworks](#) program, which includes 800 referencing styles and allows researchers to organize their research data much more efficiently, is now available on the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library website. To accompany the program library staff have been leading training sessions on the software for academic staff and research students. Refworks allows the management of citations, creation of footnotes and bibliographies.



11

Students at the Department of Music marked the end of their semester with an impressive and high quality performance held at the Reuven Hecht Arts Center. The large audience who attended the event was treated to a diverse range of Western music, spanning classics like Chopin, Mozart and Tchaikovsky, to Coltrane's tunes, Bonavita, and songs from the rock bands Muse and Queen of the Stone Age. They also performed original pieces composed by students themselves.



12

Sowing the seeds of success. The University of Haifa is certified as a 'Green Campus'. Therefore, the team from the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center, the Administrative Staff Association and the Student Union launched an original and particularly effective Tu B'Shvat planting ceremony. In accordance with the principle of the Green Campus, planters used [recycled plastic bottles](#) in which they planted seedlings. These new 'flowerpots' hang on the fences of the student building and have become part of a new 'waste recycling' green fence.



13

A collection of birds to be found in the collections room at Margolin House Museum at the Department of Biology at Oranim contains about 600 stuffed birds. Most of them are of historical value, for instance, the desert lark and the trumpeter finch collected in 1936 at Ein Feshkha which are on display. There is also the Isabelline Wheatear, collected in 1937 between Gaza and Asluj.



14

A new collaboration between Dr. Nehama Lewis-Persky from the Communications Department and University of Michigan researchers has traced the media communication chain through which students get information about drugs (ie marijuana and amphetamines such as Ritalin and Concerta). Students who took part in the study reported that information about drugs is more accessible and they find it easily without effort. Much of it influenced their position positively about drugs. "We live in a media environment which includes information that not only prevents but also promotes the use of drugs" said Dr Lewis-Persky.



15

New research conducted by the Department of Communications outlines the difficulties faced by screenwriters in Israel. These include lack of job security, uncertainty, marketing interference in content and a situation that, by the age of 50, they are considered too old. "A small number of 'star' workers enjoy significant economic security but a greater number of writers find it very difficult financially," said Haim Hagay and Dr. Roei Davidson, the researchers, in a piece published on the *Nrg* website.



16

Prof. Avraham Ben Zvi, from the School of Political Science, was interviewed by several media outlets recently: On Israel TV *Channel 10* he talked about the way the US perceives the statements of Defense Minister Moshe (Bogie) Ya'alon "From Israel's point of view, the broad context and timing of this is the worst you could possibly think of." On Israel Radio, Prof. Ben Zvi spoke on the conduct of the US in signing the world powers' agreement with Iran: "I don't think that there is such an informed ideology working here on Washington's side, except the desire to make the most of Iran's diplomatic move as a springboard to get home safely. It's considered a route to withdraw at any price."



17

There was also a media filled week for Dr. Soli Shahvar, Head of the The Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies. Dr. Shahvar took part in a BBC Persian Language TV program dealing with the establishment of the State of Israel, alongside Atta-Allah Mohajerani, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the Iranian Khatami government. He was also interviewed by Israel Radio on the burgeoning agreement between the world powers and Iran. In the interview Dr Shahvar commented "I think that the main reason for the agreement was to get out of the impasse in which they had been stuck. Economic sanctions and the threat of military attack all disappeared at once."



18

The Faculty of Law's Prof. Michal Gal and Dr. Amir Israeli were cited in an article for the *Globes* website on the arrangement that existed in the 2000's between the Israeli confectionary firm Elite and chocolate giant Cadbury to restrict its entry into the Israeli chocolate market. Prof. Gal and Dr Israeli had published an article criticizing the arrangement which stated that this is under deterrence. The article notes that it is difficult to assume that the fines imposed on Elite embody the losses caused to Cadbury if indeed it would have entered the Israeli market if would have been a strong contender in the chocolate industry.



19

Iran: 1, The West: 0. This was the title of the article Prof. Norman Bailey of the National Security Studies Center wrote for the *Globes* business website. In the article he refers not only to Iran's position in the light of her agreement signed with the world powers, and its significance for Israel, but also to the effects of the struggles taking place between the Turkish premier and his opponents inside his country. "The two non-Arab Muslim countries in the Middle East, as usual, find themselves in the headlines and their exploits, as usual, have a significant influence on Israel"



20

The research of the Communication Department's Prof. Gabriel Weimann has been used or an article in the *Globes IT* website. The article dealt with the use of analytical programming in the battlefield. Prof. Weimann's research explores the use by terrorists of internet platforms. He is quoted "It is known that they pretty much avoid using suspect words so that content filters do not detect terrorist activities taking place in the background. But, they cannot altogether prevent the transmission of messages over the internet and so they reveal patterns of behavior different to those of the routine unsuspecting user."



21

Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz, head of the Center for the Study of Child Development commented on the Education Ministry's unpreparedness to implement the law that requires parents to send their children to recognized pre schools from the age of three, in an article on the *Mako* TV website "The State cannot be sure to deliver sufficiently high quality educational institutions at this age and so it may not be necessary to oblige the parents to send children to nurseries."



22

Prof. (Emeritus) Ehud Spanier from The Department of Maritime Civilizations has solved a thousand year old puzzle: what is the origin of the light blue color on the edges of the ritual fringes or *tzitzit* in biblical times? In his article published in the *Calcalist* newspaper, he explains how he discovered that the origins of the color is a gland found in banded dye-murex snail "We realized that the ancients used the colored glands of live snails that ate each other." Prof. Spanier's article was also published on Israeli TV *Channel 10*'s website.



23

National Geographic Israel used a survey by Adi Barash, a masters student at the Evolutionary Biology Department, for an article on sharks. According to the survey it seems that the number of sharks off the coast of Israel has risen in the last 20 years. One reason is the infiltration by more sharks from the Red Sea through the Suez Canal. In addition, Adi identified a gathering of sharks near a power plant "This is a phenomenon unknown anywhere else in the world," she said. Adi will begin her doctoral studies next semester at the Department of Marine Biology in the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences.



24

Prof. Izhak Brik was interviewed on Israel Radio about the conference held by the Israel Gerontological Society. Prof. Brik, who is also Chairman of the Association, said during the program "The conference was titled "A different kind of aging in an aging world" because we see that life expectancy is increasing – in Israel almost 80 for men and 84 for women. This statistic puts us on the same level as "aging" countries in the world such as Japan or Australia. We are approaching an era where there will be many more elderly people, which would lead to a significant change in the world. Therefore, we are talking about another type of old age".



25

Californian students studying at the International School told the [Jewish Journal](#) website about their academic and social experiences during their time in the year long program they are participating in. Despite worries about the security situation, the University of California decided to run a student exchange program this year, and according to the students it was worth it. "The perception of there being a lack of security just doesn't exist anymore" said Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of the Students and head of the International School.

