



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

Last week, the President of the State of Israel, Reuven (Ruby) Rivlin, paid a visit to the University of Haifa accompanied by University President Amos Shapira, the Rector Professor David Faraggi, members of the University's administration and deans of the various faculties. The President visited the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics headed by Professor Fuad Fares, where he was presented with the key research projects being conducted at these advanced laboratories, projects which focus on understanding the structure and function of proteins by means of genetic engineering for the research of cancer including the discovery of genes involved in the development of cancer, with the aim of developing new strategies for diagnosing and treating the disease. Following this, the President met with about 400 students to whom he delivered a talk, saying: "The University is among the few places in which the four tribes meet. I remember the days of my own studies, how I would meet students from all sectors of the population, and here I see how good and pleasant it is for brethren and cousins to come together. I look at you and see the Israeli experience as it is, with the understanding that there is no other way than to live together, and that we have the ability to create a system that can be a benefit to us all and advance us all."



2

On the same afternoon, the President participated in the first year anniversary of the "**929 Project**", an Israeli initiative which invites participants to read one chapter of the Tanakh every day (see 929.org). The anniversary was held at the University where a panel of varied public figures spoke about a biblical personality of their choice.



3

The President's visit was also attended by the President's wife Nechama Rivlin who toured the *Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum* accompanied by the curator of the Museum, Ms. Shunit Marmelstein, and the Vice President for Development and External Relations, Yariv Sultan.



4

Congratulations go out to Dr. Osnat Atun Einy from the Department of Physical Therapy who has recently been awarded the 2015 Sara Van Dam Project Grant for her joint research with the Utrecht University Center for Cognitive and Motor Development. The research deals with the evaluation of parental cognition on the issue of infancy motor development and daily life actions dealing with infant motor skills – it includes unique developmental and research tools. The research was conducted amongst 300 families who have one baby and also includes a group of families with premature babies.



5

Congratulations also go out to Talia Levy, doctoral researcher at the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, who has recently been awarded the State of Israel President Scholarship for Excellence and Innovation for her research titled: "To the question of foreign expression: looking at the work of Avotth Yeshurun and Erez Biton" supervised by Prof. Dina Stein and Dr. Lilach Lachman. The Scholarship is awarded on a yearly basis to 12 excellent doctoral researchers from the Social Sciences and the Humanities. This year it was decided to promote areas of research dealing with the interface between cultures, languages and people.



6

Last week the Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum hosted the annual award ceremony for the Young Artists' Competition in the Visual Arts. The competition was initiated (in 1992) and conceived by Dr. Hecht, who wished to foster young artists at the beginning of their careers. The participants are high school students from Northern Israel and students studying Art at the University of Haifa and other Northern institutions of higher learning. This competition has gained a prestigious place amongst other competitions in this field in Israel. The Museum also inaugurated a special exhibition with the works of the young artists who received this years' Award.



7

Shlomo Dovrat, a well-known and respected high-tech entrepreneur recently gave a lecture to University of Haifa students, organized with the assistance of the Israeli Friends' Association, under the framework of the University Entrepreneurship Program (under establishment). This program is a joint program for Arab and Jewish students and its purpose is to encourage and create business, social and technological ventures. The Head of this Program is Dr. Ron Bekkerman from the Department of Information and Knowledge Management. Shlomo Dovrat is the co-founder of Carmel Ventures and the Viola Group. He is also known for heading the Israeli national commission for reform in Education, known as the Dovrat Commission.



Saja Abu Fanni, a student studying Political Science and Communications at the University, recently wrote in the opinion column of the Haaretz Newspaper online edition, both in English and in Hebrew. "When hatred of the other becomes a religion, when evil becomes a faith and cruelty a reality, when racism is the supreme social value, children's world is destroyed. It collapses all around them". For more reading please follow the link:

<http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.692232>



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