



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

The Presidential Search Committee for the President of the University of Haifa has unanimously decided to recommend Prof. Ron Robin for the position of the next President of the University. Prof. Robin is a well-known researcher whose roots are firmly planted at the University of Haifa and who knows the Israeli and global academic system well. Prof. Robin joined the Faculty at the University of Haifa back in 1986 after completing his Ph.D. in American History from the University of California in Berkeley. Prof. Robin rose through the ranks at the University of Haifa from a lecturer to a full professor, and served as the Dean of Students for two terms. He later joined the Department of Communication at New York University (NYU) and after a short period was invited to join its management as Vice Provost. As such, his main duties were the establishment of two international NYU campuses in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai.



2

In a festive ceremony held recently, the University of Haifa renamed the Faculty of Social Sciences after University friends Herta and Paul Amir. Thanks to their \$10 million gift, the single highest gift ever given to the University of Haifa by a donor to one project, 4 additional floors will be added to the Buildings of the Faculty of Social Sciences: 10 new laboratories will be built and new researchers, amongst whom will be returning scientists, will be absorbed into the various departments. The connection between Mr. and Mrs. Amir with the State of Israel and the University of Haifa is a longstanding one. At the University, Mr. and Mrs. Amir have previously gifted towards the School of Arts Building, recruiting and integrating returning scientists, excellence scholarships, various projects at the National Security Studies Center and more. Paul Amir is an Honorary Doctorate recipient from the University.



3

The International School recently hosted a delegation from the University of Petroleum in China and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Universities. The University is located in Beijing and specializes in Chemical Engineering and Technology, Mineral Resources Prospecting and Exploration, Oil and Gas Well Engineering, Oil and Gas Storage and Transportation Engineering and Oil and Gas Field Development Engineering. The visit of the delegation is part of an overall effort by the International School to promote collaborations in the Asian market in general and China in particular so as to attract excellent students to the University from these countries.



4

The article jointly published By Prof. Emeritus Arthur Segal and Dr. Michael Eisenberg of the Zinman Institute of Archeology about their research at the Hippos excavation site was chosen as one of the 40 breakthrough articles of the last 40 years by the Biblical Archeology Review Journal which is the most widespread English language Archeology publication in the world. In addition, the National Geographic Spanish Edition chose their find at Hippos of the Bronze Mark of the Greek god Pan as one of the ten unique archeological finds of 2015: [the article](#).



5

35 students from the University flagship "Jewish Arab Community Leadership Program", which is supported by the German Friends of the university, in collaboration with the Student Union, have initiated and led dialogue round tables centering on the "Holiday of Holidays" and the values that it holds. The "Holiday of Holidays", for those not familiar, is the crossroads of Hanukka, Id al-Adha and Christmas, and has come to stand for coexistence and multiculturalism. The students spoke about this concept at the University and what can be done to enhance it and further celebrate it.



6

The lecture series hosted by the University Entrepreneurship Program (under establishment) and organized with the assistance of the Israeli Friends' Association came to a close with a lecture about international business development given by Joshua Levinberg who was a founding partner of GVT at an estimated worth of \$6 billion. 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.



The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism, headed by Prof. Eli Avraham, recently held a conference on the Israeli international case - public relations efforts to disseminate positive information or propaganda abroad about the State of Israel and its actions. "There are many Israelis who are proud of the "Breaking the Silence" organization and in this reality, Israeli public relations cannot be effective" stated Brig. Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser who was chief of the research division in IDF Military Intelligence, and until recently, director general of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs. During the event, the Yedioth Ahronoth journalist Eldad Beck received the "Ambassadors Online" Program Commendation for his activities against Anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of Israel who stated that "reporters who obviously perform their duties unethically and are guided by ideology should not be reporters. We are in a state of an anti-Israel media activism which sometimes becomes Antisemitism". The "Ambassadors Online" Program is generously supported by the Association of Canadian Friends of the University of Haifa and its President Dr. Arnie Aberman. The Key Note Speaker at the conference was Prof. Irwin Cotler from McGill University and former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.



Someone who has felt "too sensitive" and wanted to change his brain and be less affected by negative events may find help. A new research suggests that we can "calm" the emotional part of our brain. These findings were recently published in the *NeuroImage* Journal and were the results of research conducted by Dr. Noga Cohen from Ben-Gurion University in collaboration with Dr. Hadas Okon Singer of the University's Department of Psychology and the Head of [the Cognition Emotion Interaction Laboratory](#), and the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, Germany. The researchers found that simple computer training sessions that involve ignoring irrelevant information can alter the brain's wiring and cause it to react less to unpleasant images. These changes are accompanied by strengthening neural connections in the brain that are involved in controlling emotional responses. This is the first demonstration that non-emotional training can change the emotional reactions of the brain. These research findings were also reported in the [Jerusalem Post](#)



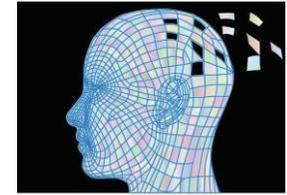
9

"Rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran following the execution of Shiite Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr constitute a turning point in the relations between these two regional powers. Jerusalem, for its part, can take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen its overall interests in the Middle East." Wrote Dr. Ofer Israeli from the School of Political Science in an OP-ED for [i24news](#)



10

Prof. Kobi Rosenblum of the University's Sagol Department of Neurobiology recently published an article in the [Journal of Neuroscience](#). The article published is based on a study conducted by his team at the University which is studying the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying learning and memory have found that "repairing" this activity led to an improvement in memory. An item on this was also published in the [Jerusalem Post](#).



11

Congratulations go out to Prof. Saul Smilansky, the Head of the Department of Philosophy at the University, who has recently been named one of the seven most influential philosophers to come out of Israel. This list was compiled by the [Culture Trip website](#).

