



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

The Department of Learning Disabilities and the *Edmond J. Safra Center Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities* held a conference showcasing the connections between academic know how and field activities for the promotion of Arabic language literacy. A first of its kind valid and reliable diagnostic kit was presented for the diagnosis of disabilities in speaking, writing and comprehension in Arabic. "This is a historic day as we present a standard diagnostic evaluation tool which allows for the diagnosis of disabilities in the Arabic language, a Semitic language written in alphabetic script" stated Prof. Michal Shany who headed this conference.



2

The Haifa Center for German and European Studies, in cooperation with the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law Under Extreme Conditions at the Faculty of Law and the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, hosted Israel's German Ambassador, Dr. Clemens von Goetze at a workshop on "Refugees in Europe: Causes and Consequences of a Foretold Crisis". Speaking at the seminar in front of dozens of participants, the Ambassador said that "The German government is doing its best to provide the best conditions for refugees who come to the country". The event was opened by Prof. Eli Salzburger, who heads both of the above centers, and various senior figures from fields including International Studies and Humanitarian Aid in the University and abroad participated.



3

A Spotlight on the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library – The "Database of the Month", one of the most popular databases in the Library, is the Online Multi Word Database (*Rav Milim Mekuvan*). The University Library typically has an average of 11,945 search queries per month in this database but did you know you can use it to translate words? Find synonyms? Solve crossword puzzles? Find words that rhyme with a certain word? Etc.



5

Oxytocin, the "Love Hormone" may be able to help increase compassion in people suffering symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress. These are the findings of a new research conducted and led by Prof. Simone Shamay-Tsoory from the Department of Psychology. "On the one hand, there is surely a need for a region that tosses out innovative ideas, but on the other hand there is also the need for one that will know to evaluate how applicable and reasonable these ideas are. The ability of the brain to operate these two regions in parallel is what results in creativity. It is possible that the most sublime creations of humanity were produced by people who had an especially strong connection between the two regions" claimed the researchers. The findings were covered by the [Jerusalem Post](#)



4

The fifth Model UN Conference was recently held on campus with hundreds of attendees from all academic institutions in Israel, including students from the University's own International School. The debates were held within the framework of five committees and dealt with issues such as prescription drugs in developing countries, absorption of Syrian refugees in non-European countries and saving heritage sites from the violent hands of ISIS. Participants ended the day with an awards ceremony where 4 University representatives received first-place awards.



6

Dr. Ido Zerkovitz from the Department of Middle Eastern History and the Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies, interviewed for the popular Italian Newspaper Corriere Della Sera regarding the strength of the hold the Muslim State has amongst Palestinians living in the Territories and the State of Israel.

