At a Glance
Latest News from the University of Haifa

1

John Bussel, an ASUH Board Member, and his wife Laura hosted a private ASUH Conversational Dinner recently at their home in Bay Harbor Islands, FL. Participants included business leaders from Miami, Chicago and New York. University of Haifa President Amos Shapira was the guest of honor. Renowned criminal defense attorney Alan Dershowitz moderated the animated discussion, which covered a range of topics from the importance of Mediterranean Sea Research, diversity and coexistence and how the University of Haifa is playing a vital role in reshaping Israeli society. Among the distinguished guests was Ann Bussel, daughter of philanthropist and banker Shepard Broad, who spoke proudly of her late father's staunch support of the founding of the state of Israel and of his friendship with David Ben-Gurion. The Shepard Broad Foundation has given generous support to teacher training and parenting programs at the University of Haifa for many years.

2

The Reuven Chaikin Chair in Geostrategy headed by Prof. Arnon Sofer held its annual conference in memory of Reuven Chaikin Z"l. The conference hosted a panel given by Major General (Ret.) YaaKov Amidror as well as a panel given by Rear Admiral (Ret.) Dr. Shaul Chorev, formerly the head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission and a new faculty member at the University recruited as the head of the Research Center for Maritime Strategy generously supported by Dov Shafir and the Tauber Foundation.

3

Student from the Department of Music ended the semester with a festive and impressive concert at the Dr. Reuben and Edith Hecht School of the Arts Building in front of an audience of dozens of music lovers. The concert included the participation of the Jewish-Arab Orchestra conducted by Prof. Taiseer Elias, the University Choir conducted by Dr. Tommer Hesseg, as well as ensembles in various styles.

4

The University's Department of Computer Science held its annual scholarships awards ceremony in honor of Captain Uri Michael Akavia who was killed in the Yom Kippur War during the battle over the HaGolan Heights. This is the 18th year these scholarships are being awarded. "In his short life, Uri Michael Akavia z"l, personified all the values we embrace at the University. Uri, like the entire Akavia family, will always be part of the University of Haifa Family", stated Amos Shapira, President of the University.

5

Congratulations go to Dr. Ido Gal from the Department of Human Services and Prof. Dani Ben-Zvi, from the Department of Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education on receiving a prestigious research grant from the European Community in the framework of the ERASMUS Program on the subject of "Promoting civic engagement via exploration of evidence: Challenges for statistics education". The three-year grant in the amount of Euro 400,000 is the result of a collaboration between five European universities including the University of Haifa.

6

Students from the University "Jewish Arab Community Leadership Program", which is supported by the German Friends of the university, aims to create dialogue between Arab and Jewish students and create joint leadership in the community and on campus. Students from the Program led a special event in the multicultural Hadar Neighborhood in Haifa for a mixed population which included musical performances in Arabic, Hebrew and English as well as a display of the culturally diverse history of the neighborhood.

7

The Third Haifa Media Conference took place last week at the University of Haifa. The conference is an annual event for the Haifa Press Association and is done in collaboration with the University. This year, the conference included three fascinating panels on the following issues: the role of emerging new technologies in the work of the journalist, the representation of Arab Journalists in the Hebrew Press and the environment and its coverage in the Israeli media. Dozens of journalists attended the event.