Knesset Member and Head of the Labor Party Yitzhak Herzog was the guest of honor at the opening event of the Ruderman Program for American-Jewish Studies, headed by Prof. Gur Alroey. "There is a clear tie between the international isolation and the troublesome path leading Israel to the International Court of Justice in The Hague and the deterioration of our relations with the United States. For years no one in Israel has tried to understand the Jews of America. A program of study such as this one offered at the University of Haifa should have been found at every academic institution in Israel," said MK Herzog.

And more from the Library – A new exhibit is currently on display at the Eastern Window gallery at the Library’s display window: The Kimono – Not Just an Article of Clothing. The exhibit was set up by Dr. Rika Takaki-Einy and by Ms. Sigal Schneider of the Department of Asian Studies and all of the items belong to faculty members of the Department.

Dr. Younes and Mrs. Soraya Nazarian, Adv. Miri Katz who is the CEO of the IMA Foundation in Israel, and Yoel Ofir visited the University’s Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library and got to hear about the exhibits, lectures and the variety of activities taking place there. They also received an update of the Ex Libris company’s decision to install its Alma program in the Library, for the first time in an academic library in Israel. The new system will unify the management of all types of existing materials and content, will make work processes more efficient, and will assist in decision-making thanks to its analytic and statistic capabilities.

Prof. Aaron Avivi from the Institute of Evolution was a guest of the American Society of the University of Haifa on the West Coast. During his visit he lectured to guests from the Palo Alto Jewish Community Center about his fascinating research into the war against cancer using cellular mechanisms developed by the blind mole rat. The research is being carried out thanks to a generous donation by a British friend of the University of Haifa, Mr. Peter Kadas.
The new Center for Marine Strategy Research, which will act in consort with the School of Political Sciences and the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, was established thanks to a generous donation by friends of the University of Haifa – BOG Chairman Prof. Alfred Tauber and Brigadier-General (Ret.) Dov Shafir. The Head of the new Center will be Brigadier-General (Ret.) Dr. Israel Leshem and his research team will include Dr. Udi Eran and Dr. Eviad Reuben.

Another visit which took place on campus – The director of the Czech National Archives was the guest of the MA in Culture and Film Studies program and their project Another Look – Restored European Cinema, which holds joint annual meetings. The meetings are fruits of the cooperation between the European Union delegation and Israel, the French Institute, the Czech Center, the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the aforementioned program, the Department of Art History and the Faculty of the Humanities. This year, many students as well as guests from the Czech Embassy attended.

Prof. Thomas Noguchi, President of the World Association for Medical Law and Prof. (Emeritus) at the University of Southern California, was a guest in Dr. Oren Asman's Psychiatry and the Law course. Dr. Asman from the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies also serves as the Executive Vice President of the World Association for Medical Law. Prof. Noguchi, who is a former Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner for the County of Los Angeles, performed autopsies on such celebrities as Marilyn Monroe, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Janis Joplin and others, and came to Israel as part of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics conference.

The Interdisciplinary Clinical Center held a service last week in memory of Dalia Bernstein z”l (1950-1978), in light of her brother’s, Natan Bernstein’s, donation for those in need of mental assistance. Thanks to this generous donation, subsidized treatment will now be possible in the Interdisciplinary Center’s Institute for Consultation and Treatment of Emotions. The ceremony was attended by family members, friends, Mayor of Haifa Yona Yahav and representatives from the University administration. Prof. Rivka Yahav, Head of the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center and close friend of Dalia Bernstein z”l, said a few words at the event, in addition to greetings from Yariv Sultan, VP for Development and External Relations, Prof. Shai Linn, Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Studies, and additional friends.
The Registration and Admission Department in the Student Administration Division, in cooperation with the Rector’s Office and the Department of Immigrant Absorption in the Municipality of Haifa, hosted dozens of new immigrants last week from the former Soviet Union, the US, Canada and South America, who were interested in studying for advanced degrees at the University. These days, the olim are working hard on their Hebrew in the Etzion Ulpan in the Port Campus, out of a desire to integrate in the near future with the student community on campus. During the visit, the new olim received a warm reception which included a tour and an expansive explanation on campus life, getting acquainted with the various academic units, the existing departments and the admissions possibilities before them.