



At a Glance

Latest News from the University of Haifa

**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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Commander of the Israeli Navy, Admiral Eli Sharvit addressed the annual Chaikin Chair of Geostrategy event dedicated to Mr. Reuven Chaikin. He spoke about the challenges facing the Israeli Navy today. Admiral Sharvit was joined by Ret. Admiral Ami Ayalon, former Navy commander and former Executive Committee Chairman and Brigadier General Ret. Oded Gur-Lavi, former submarine flotilla commander who discussed the maritime strategic assessment the [Haifa Research Center for Maritime Policy & Strategy](#), has produced, the only such study in Israel. Various members of faculty attended while there was also a moving tribute to the former incumbent of the Chair, Prof. Arnon Sofer, on his retirement. The Chair will now be in the equally illustrious hands of Prof. Adm. Ret. Shaul Horev, who is the first Director of the Haifa Research Center for Maritime Policy and Strategy.



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The [Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies](#), Directed by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Gur Alroey, has just published a major position paper written by Alon Pinkas, former Israeli consul general in New York. 'Israel - a Unifying or a Divisive Issue among American Jews?' which has caused great interest in the press. The paper was launched at the Program's Annual Symposium this month which doubled as the opening ceremony for the fourth cohort of the Program. The Ruderman Family Foundation generously supports both the Program and research which aims to promote understanding between US Jewry and the Israeli public. MKs Shuli Mualem (Bayit Hayehudi), Michal Rozin (Meretz) and Nachman Shai (Israeli Labor Party) also spoke at the event. Many articles feature the paper including [Haaretz](#), [Jerusalem Post](#) and [New York Jewish Week](#).



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The environmental non-profit set up by Prof. Uri Shanas of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology at the University of Haifa's Oranim Campus has taken a unique step towards global conservation. [This is My Earth \(TiME\)](#) was set up several months ago with the goal of buying land in specific areas and setting up Nature Reserves to protect species, and halt deforestation. They bought land in Peru to protect endangered species like the yellow-tailed woolly monkey. "We've managed to show that it's possible to save species and [protect the earth](#) through crowdsourcing, thanks to lots of caring people" said Prof. Shanas in [Israel21c](#).



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A visit by 50 Chinese students and staff stimulated a lively forum comparing international environmental issues. A delegation from the Hong Kong Polytech University and Beijing University took part in a discussion with Israeli and International students on the theme of "Sustainable Development: Solid Waste Management in Mainland China and Hong Kong." Prof. Ofira Ayalon, Head of Department of Natural Resources & Environment Management moderated. The Chinese then toured the University's Green Campus Project, later joining the Green Campus Activists on a visit to community environment projects in a Haifa neighborhood.



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Israel's former defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon made an impassioned speech at a conference at the University [National Security Studies Center](#). "There are those to whom it is important to show that we lost, that Israel is humiliated, the IDF is degraded and they are the heroes. I am proud of what we did as the team leading *Operation Protective Edge*, and the results speak for themselves. It is fortunate that Operation Protective Edge had Netanyahu, Gantz [the former Chief of Staff] and myself at the helm' said former Minister Ya'alon.



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Yariv Sultan, the VP for Development and External Relations has been sharing his experience on Israel's growing third sector with students on the [MBA Program for Management of Non-Profit Organizations](#) headed by Dr. Michal Biron of the Faculty of Management, in a series of lectures on Philanthropy and Fundraising. Mr. Sultan has invited leading figures in the sector to speak, like Mr. Noam Lautman, businessman and philanthropist, and Director of '[Committed to Give](#)' Ms. Maya Adot-Lapid, whose organization promotes personal philanthropy in Israel. The latest event was also a chance to again thank Mr. Lautman, and Delta Galil Industries Ltd., for their long-standing support of students of Ethiopian origin at the University.



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Did you know that Maltese was a Semitic language with a miraculous history of survival? Prof. Aharon Kleinberger, Head of the [Department of Arabic Language and Literature](#) explained this during an event to celebrate the conclusion of a Maltese Language course at the department. 'Maltese Language, Poetry and Song' was honored with the presence of the Maltese Ambassador Cecilia Attard Pirota and the Israeli Ambassador to Malta Eyal Sela together with other senior figures in developing Maltese-Israeli trade. The audience was delighted to hear students perform Maltese music and poetry. The event heralded the forthcoming Presidency of the EU by Malta, and the selection of its capital, Valetta as European Capital of Culture.



Zahang Wai from China says that before he came to Haifa to study at the Weiss-Livnat International MA in Holocaust Studies Program he'd only read that Israel is just 'about conflicts and wars'. Now he says he's beginning to change his perspective, and even wants 'a career related to Israel....because I love Israel'. He also describes the excellent staff, and, perhaps tongue in cheek, praises the multi-tasking abilities of Israeli drivers. The film is another piece in the [Internationals](#) series we have been spotlighting on our international students.



Serving in the IDF makes you smoke more – according to a new study by Dr. Salman Zarka of the School of Public Health in collaboration with the Hebrew and Tel Aviv Universities as well as the IDF Medical Corps. The research examined the smoking habits of 30 thousand soldiers in compulsory IDF service between 1987-2011. They found that almost 36% of recruits are smokers when discharged, compared to 26% before. And more lapse back into smoking if they had given up. Thousands in Israel die from smoking related causes each year; the researchers are calling for an anti-smoking body in the IDF similar to that in the US army. See the [Jerusalem Post](#) and [JTA](#) amongst others.

