



**Division for External Relations  
and Resource Development**

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**1**

The University's International School hosted a delegation of over 50 professors and students from three leading Universities in China and Hong Kong - Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Peking University and Xi'an Jiaotong University. Members of the delegation met with Prof. David Faraggi, University Rector and Deans of the various Faculties. The meeting opened with a moving ceremony in which dozens of Jewish and Arab students participated, sharing their personal stories under the theme "Sharing and Harmony".



**2**

Adi Levy, a PhD researcher at the University and Director of the *Ambassadors Online* program spent two days in the Boston area last week explaining the pioneering initiative that trains students to use social media to counteract negative stereotypes of Israel, the delegitimization of Israel and the BDS movement. The Ambassadors Online program, which is run by The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism headed by Eli Avraham, is generously supported by our Canadian Friends chaired by Mr. Arnie Aberman, and by Mrs. Nina Weiner of the US. Adi addressed friends and supporters at Congregation Kehillath Israel and met with representatives of Hillel, the Anti-Defamation League and the Israeli Consulate in New England.



3

A study conducted by Prof. Simone Shamay-Tsoory of the Department of Psychology, found that expressions of 'schadenfreude' (pleasure in the suffering of others) can be seen in children as young as two years old. It was previously thought that before the age of seven children find it difficult to develop these types of sophisticated emotions. The study was covered in [Yahoo News](#), where Prof. Shamay-Tsoory also reassured that 'It's a normal healthy part of development'.



5

The findings of a preliminary study conducted by Dr. Shlomit Paz of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Professor Jan C. Semenza of the Stockholm Environment Institute, found a connection between the spread of the Zika virus by mosquitos, and the hot dry weather caused by climate change which is ideal for mosquitos to breed. The findings, published in the prestigious medical journal, *The Lancet*, are available [here](#). Dr. Paz was interviewed on this research in the [Jerusalem Post](#) where she commented that "The extreme arid and hot weather in this part of Brazil result from the combination of the El Nino (a band of warm ocean water that develops in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific) and climatic changes that have been occurring in recent years".



4

What is Israel's position in the changing Middle East? According to Dr. Ehud Eiran, of the School of Political Sciences and the Haifa Research Center for Maritime Strategy, who was interviewed in [Yahoo News](#), the Mediterranean Sea is key: "We see in the last few years is a rise in significance of the Mediterranean.... These changes, especially the superpower competition, affects Israel whether it likes it or not," he said.



6

Dr. Dan Tchernov, Head of the Department of Marine Biology at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, and also a faculty member at the Helmsley Center for Mediterranean Sea Research, is one of the scientists participating in an international project involving researchers from a host of illustrious academic institutions such as Harvard, to perfect a new type deep sea research tool. The project is working on an underwater robot with 'Squishy Robotic Fingers' gentle enough to collect samples of the most delicate marine creatures and plants underwater. Many media outlets have reported on this exciting story, including the [National Geographic](#).



7

Congratulations to Dr. Uri Schattner, from the Department of Marine Geosciences at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences who has won the 2016 Israeli Geological Society's *Prof. Rafi Freund Memorial Prize* for an original and innovative paper published on sedimentary transport in the Eastern Mediterranean in the *Journal of Sedimentary Geology*.



8

A study, led by the University of Haifa, into the link between air pollution and excessive mortality in the Haifa Bay region has been widely reported in the Israeli media recently. In the study a team of 20 scientists and researchers from nine different Institutions have been working together, including Harvard University. The study began a year ago and will continue into the coming years. The University and its research partners will be submitting the official findings once research is concluded.



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