



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

18 February 2016

Issue No. 16 for Academic Year 2015-16



1

Congratulations to Dr. Arie Kizel, head of the Department of Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education at the Faculty of Education, who was chosen as a Research Fellow of the UNESCO Chair of Children's Philosophy, which is awarded to those academics with the most prestigious reputation in their field. Dr. Kizel is an expert in philosophy with children and how it can be used to educate. He has published numerous articles on the subject and spoken at a variety of international conferences on this issue. In fact, this summer he is due to present his research on "philosophy and children: the child's perception of life memory on the Internet" at the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy with Children in New York.



2

The University had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Peter Kadas, a longtime friend and supporter of the University and a Co-Chairman of the British Friends of the University to meet a variety of Faculty members. He began with a visit to the Sdot Yam Helmsley Mediterranean Sea Research Center, where he met Dr. Dan Tchernov, head of the Department of Marine Biology at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, and his team. The team presented some of their more recent works. It was a packed program, which also included a visit to Prof. Aaron Avivi and his colleagues at the Institute of Evolution, to discuss research into the Spalax mole and its connection to cancer therapy, another meeting with Dr. Shaul Horev, newly appointed director of the University's Haifa Research Center for Maritime Strategy and a visit at the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Center.



3

Representatives of the UK Task Force on issues relating to Arab citizens of Israel visited the campus recently during a fact finding tour to Israel. The Task Force is a consortium of representatives of British organizations such as the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the United Jewish Israel Appeal. Over 15 representatives listened to Prof. Sammy Smootha talk about his research on the Index of Arab-Jewish Relations. His description of the changes in attitudes of Arabs and Jews towards each other, in line with political changes in Israel, provoked a great deal of interest and questions.



4

Meeting the Challenge of the BDS was the topic that attracted 200 participants to a series of talks by experts from the University of Haifa co-sponsored by the American Society of the University of Haifa and the program host, Congregation Beth Jacob, in Redwood City, CA. Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students and head of the International School, Professor of Philosophy of Education at the University of Haifa, and Prof. Mark Yudof, President Emeritus and Professor of Law at the University of California and a Member of the Board of Governors at the University of Haifa, shared their perspectives and insights into the BDS movement, as seen in both the U.S. and Israel.



5

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library recently held a tailor-made day seminar to nurture young researchers about to start publishing articles. The library focused on recommendations, ideas, and tips highlighting scientific papers for publication. A representative of the [Springer](https://www.springer.com) academic publishing house, which publishes books and academic journals, delivered a presentation on publishing articles for publication and review, with many useful tips on achieving success.



6

Dr. Shlomit Paz's research on the Zika virus has stirred more interest in the international media. Dr Paz of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, together with her research colleague Prof. Jan C. Semenza of the Stockholm Environment Institute, found a link between the extreme dry weather in northern and eastern Brazil, and conditions which promote the Zika virus outbreak. The findings were reported in the [Daily Mail](https://www.dailymail.co.uk) , [MedicalExpress](https://www.medicalexpress.com) , [Health.com](https://www.health.com), and [Science Daily](https://www.sciencedaily.com).



7

It was a busy media week for Dr. Israel Waismel-Manor of the School of Political Sciences, who is an expert on USA politics. He was interviewed by the [Jerusalem Post](#), on the Israeli view of the US election race "Israelis are mostly familiar with only two characters – Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton," "[they] are almost ignorant of who Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio are and they have no idea who Rand Paul or Christie are," he said. He also featured in another [Jerusalem Post](#) article on his findings that the stress of voting in person might cause some types of people to abstain from voting, with a recommendation that "voting from home could be a solution that would allow them to exercise their democratic right". Lastly, Dr. Waismel-Manor spoke in an interview on Israeli TV, explaining the phenomenon of US political lobbying to the Israeli audience.



8

The University has sent out a call for international academics to become Affiliate Professors of our University. The move, which is advertised on [the University Website](#) is aimed at academics around the world who support Israeli Universities and oppose the BDS movement that is sweeping campuses in the West. By becoming affiliated with an Israeli university, affiliated professors convey this message to would-be boycotters: 'If you boycott Israeli academia, you are boycotting me.'

