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1

Warm congratulations go to Prof. Avraham Ben Zvi, Head of the Leon Charney School of Marine Sciences, who became an Honorary Member of the Israel Geological Society recently, in recognition of his pioneering and enduring contribution to advancing Earth Sciences in Israel. "Prof. Zvi Ben-Avraham is a world-renowned geophysicist, and one of the founders of the field in Israel. His many works, both individually and in collaboration with many of the students he has taught, has led him to become one of the leading scientists in Israel, winning many awards, amongst them the Israel Prize in 2003. He represents the Israeli geological community with great honor." the judges commented.



2

A symposium in honor of newly published book written Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi of the Department of Land of Israel Studies and Prof. Aharon Geva Kleinberger of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature was held recently. It drew a large number of spectators keen to hear more. The book, *Von Mulinen's Carmel* is a translation, with notes and explanations of Eberhard Von Mulinen's fascinating book published in 1908 describing life in the Carmel at the turn of the twentieth century.



3

The Natural Resources and Environmental Research Center, headed by Prof. Ofira Ayalon together with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Management held an international workshop dedicated to environmental assessment of land use. At the workshop participants reviewed a case study dealing with the biosphere in Ramat Menashe, touring the area trying to understand who are the key stakeholders in the region's development - and conservation. The workshop was held as part of the European [MACSUR](#) (Modelling European Agriculture with Climate Change for Food Security) which is a research partner of the Center.



4

A groundbreaking study conducted by Prof. Shmuel Gal of the Department of Statistics, along with researchers at the Université François-Rabelais, Tours, has recently been published. The findings propose an innovative search theory which relates to the way predators and their prey behave in nature and the implications this may have for terrorists hunting techniques. Indeed, while there are many theories in the field analyzing the 'searcher and the searched' or 'the hunter and the hunted' almost no attention has been paid to integrating the two. The fact remains that even when you have found whom you are looking for (the search), you still have to catch them (hunt them).



5

Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz and Dr. Tirtsa Joels of the Center for the Study of Child Development have just returned from a visit to Ghana as guests of the Israeli Ambassador in Accra, Sharon Bar-li, to help promote the MA program in child development to developing countries, which opens at the University in the coming academic year. During the visit Prof. Sagi-Schwartz and Dr. Joels met with Department Heads and Deans from different universities as well as with hundreds of applicants to study in the program. Given the acclaim the program has won in Ghana, requests have been arriving from professionals in other countries in Africa and Asia who wish to participate. The Vital Capital Fund, an organization leading third world investment, has promoted the program with the aid of it's investment committee chairman Mr. Eytan Stibbe and granted scholarships to fifteen students.



6

Thousands of potential graduate students in various departments attended a recent [campus open day](#). The visitors were able to walk round a variety of stands representing seven University faculties, as well as attending interactive presentations delivered by University lecturers and leading intellectuals. This included medical researchers Prof. Yoram Yovell and Prof. Gal Richter-Levin, Political and military specialists Dr. Ronen Bergman and Prof. Avi Ben-Zvi, writer Yehudit Rotem and literature specialist Prof. Nitza Ben-Dov, and also the University President Amos Shapira. "We were really able to demonstrate the beauty of our University: its rich selection of programs; faculty staff who delivered fascinating lectures; administrative staff who explained and advised; all set against the background of the beautiful views we have from the summit of Mount Carmel" concluded Prof. David Feraggi, Rector of the University.



7

Dr. Soli Shahvar, head of Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies was interviewed by the Spanish newspaper [El-Mundo](#) for an article about public executions in Iran. The article focused on the case of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, whose sentence of death by stoning was commuted, following international pressure, to hanging. Dr Shahvar commented that "A regime that claims to be Islamic and establish Islamic law is also bound to mete out Islamic punishment. Public cruelty and executions of this type are designed to deter - although there is no evidence that this is indeed the case. Pressure of world opinion, combined with Iran's isolation, leads to the regime being required to change, convert or mitigate its punishments. However, it seems that in this case the government just waited for the right time in which to carry out the sentence."



8

Another member of the faculty of The Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Dr. Eran Segal, was also interviewed in the media recently. In a [Newsweek](#) article focusing on President Obama's forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia, Segal said that the visit will do little to appease them " I can't see what concrete ideas Obama can bring to them....Their anger was piqued when Obama declined to attack Syria after drawing his red line there. How much can a visit change?" In another article published in the Jerusalem Post about the Arab League summit's refusal to recognize Israel as Jewish state, he claimed that Kuwait's unsuccessful attempt to mediate a conflict between the Gulf States may lead to an escalation of tension in the region."



9

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library recently held a seminar in memory of the late Jair de Marcas, who worked in the library for 20 years, during which he helped to develop electronic journal availability and online databases. The seminar, entitled "Libraries on the Net", was attended Yair's family, generations of library staff, guests from Israel's information science community, representatives of publishers, information providers and the libraries consortium.



10

The Israel Friends Association hosted a joint event with the members of the Northern District Manufacturers' Association, as part of a promote the University's research to members of the Association. The keynote lecture of the evening was given by University graduate, Major General (reserve) Uri Sagie. University President Amos Shapira and Friends Association President Lionel Cohen presented Major General Sagie (Reserve) and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Science Nurit Yirmiya, who also attended, with a Leading Alumni Certificate.



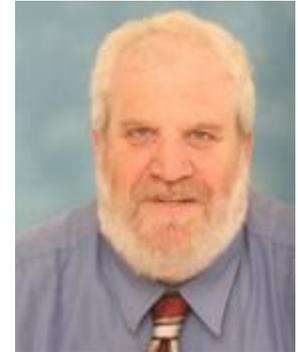
11

Congratulations to [Prof. Michal Gal](#) of the Faculty of Law whose article "[Merger Policy for Small and Micro Jurisdictions](#)" was chosen as a winner in the [Antitrust Writing Awards 2014](#), awarded by the George Washington University Competition Law Center. According to the committee, "This award is recognition of your work by world experts in the antitrust field".



12

Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, head of the Center for Internet Research, was interviewed by Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*, as part of a special issue focusing on Israel as a 'start-up nation'. Prof. Refaeli talked about teaching innovation, entrepreneurship and technology and real-life "games" played by children on the internet.



13

Prof. Eli Avraham, head of the Comper Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism and the academic supervisor of [Ambassadors Online Program](#), where students combat – and now also analyze and investigate - the delegitimization of Israel on the internet. "The program began as a diploma program for those interested in the subject. Then we decided to make it a full academic course that really gives you credit towards your degree".

