



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations recently visited the University of Haifa. The visit included a focus on the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies, headed by Prof. Gur Alroey. The program is generously supported by the Ruderman Family Foundation, headed by longtime Friends and University honorary doctorate recipients Jay and Shira Ruderman. "I want to thank the University of Haifa and the Ruderman Foundation for hosting us on this exciting occasion" concluded the Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents, Mr. Malcolm Hoenlein, during a closing panel session on the generational divide and level of support for Israel among American Jews. The panel was moderated by University President Elect, Prof. Ron Robin and consisted of senior members of the US delegation and current President, Amos Shapira. The Conference of Presidents is the central body of the US Jewish Community, made up of over 50 leading Zionist Jewish organizations in the US. ([see report by the Conference of Presidents](#)).



2

The Conference of Presidents visit coincided with a day long symposium organized by the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies on the topic of '100 years of the relationship between Israel and the Jews of the USA'. This relationship, beginning with the days of the British Mandate, through the contribution of USA's Jewish Community to the State of Israel's establishment, and the differences and similarities between Israeli culture and American Jewry featured in depth discussion and a unique and vibrant exchange of views.



3

The 'Kickoff Consortium Meeting' of the European Access Network's DARE Program for access of disadvantaged groups of people and regions to higher education took place recently at Murica University. This initiative is funded by Europe under the *Erasmus Plus* program for capacity building in higher education, and is coordinated by Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students and Head of the International School. The University is leading this project in Israel, in collaboration with 15 Israeli academic institutions. Prof. Faisal Azaiza of the School of Social Work, and member of the Israeli Council of Higher Education also spoke at the Meeting. [Click here](#) for more details.

**4**

The School of Social Work, the Division of Public Policy and Administration, the School of Political Science, the School of Public Health and the Department of Gerontology all joined together to organize the seventh annual conference of ESPA (the Forum for Social Policy Studies in Israel). Hundreds of participants came to the University to take part in this impressive event, which focused this year on the *Welfare State in a Multicultural Society: Social Policy Challenges*. As part of the conference, the University's Flagship Project: the Haifa Partnership for Breaking the Chain of Poverty opened an exhibition on 'the price of poverty – qualitative and participatory research at the Hecht Auditorium. Visitors were given a view of poverty and social exclusion through the eyes of participating artists based on their personal experiences.

**5**

The Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Center, supported by the generosity of UK Friends and forthcoming 2016 Honorary Doctorate recipients Dr. Gyongyver and Mr. Peter Kadas, has collaborated on another groundbreaking project. The initiative, with Israel's Electric Company, has launched a green roof research sub-station near Har-Hotzvim in Jerusalem. Prof. Leon Blaustein, who heads the Kadas Green Roofs Center, was interviewed in the Israeli media, saying that "the study will examine how the existence of the roof and the plants it will contain will impact on the cooling effect of the roof. Also, we will examine the effect of the size of such an area of roof on the dynamics and diversity of species that exist on the roof".

**6**

According to a new report prepared by the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources sea turtles off the coast of Israel are in danger from oil and gas exploration, and we need to take measures to protect them. Marine biologist Dr. Orit Barnea wrote the report in collaboration with Dr. Danny Kerem, research fellow at the *Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies*, and faculty member at the *Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences*. Dr. Kerem is also president of the *Israeli Marine Mammal Research & Assistance Center (IMMRAC)*. The report was commissioned to evaluate the environmental impact of oil and gas exploration and featured in the Israeli media.

