



Issue No. 17 for Academic Year 2014-15

February 26, 2015

1

The University of Haifa and the East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai signed a memorandum of cooperation on the construction of the Shanghai-Haifa International Research Center, the first of its kind in Shanghai for Israeli and Chinese academia. The joint fields of research already agreed upon include neuroscience, mathematics education and technology, computing and data management, and environmental management. The collaboration between the universities will enable Israeli and Chinese researchers to submit research proposals to Chinese research funds. "This is another step in the University of Haifa's international activity, and it will open up new horizons for the University's researchers, in terms of the growing academic knowledge and capabilities of the Chinese academia, in terms of research infrastructures, and in terms of resources," said Prof. David Faraggi, the University of Haifa Rector, who signed the agreement with his Chinese counterpart, the President of ECNU.



2

A delegation of 15 guests from Boston, headed by Steve and Carol Doppelt, visited the University last week from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) organization. The members of the group met with representatives of the Jewish-Arab Community Leadership Program, the "Ambassadors Online" Program, the Model United Nations Society, and they then had a guided tour at the Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum. The group also visited the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences where they met with Dr. Yizhaq Makovsky. The visitors were very impressed with the activity on campus and promised to visit us again next year.



3

German author Jennifer Teege, who discovered several years ago that she was the granddaughter of Nazi war criminal Amon Goeth, a commander at the Plaszow concentration camp, was a guest last week at an event organized by the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research and the Haifa Center for German and European Studies, in honor of the release of her book: *Amon: My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me*. The meeting began with a lecture by Prof. Eli Somer, from the School of Social Work, who surveyed a study he had carried out about second generation Germans living in Israel. Later on, Ms. Teege was interviewed by Prof. Hadas Wiseman from the Department of Counseling and Human Development, where she honestly and openly shared with the many guests her feelings, fears, desires and frustrations from the fascinating life story fate had given her, and which she had documented in her book. The event also included an exceptional encounter between Ms. Teege and 88 year-old survivor Rena Birnhack who was mentioned in the book. Mention of the visit appeared in several local papers and websites.



4

For the first time, ancient grape seeds once cultivated in the Western Negev to make *Wine of the Negev*, one of the finest wines during the Byzantine era, whose secret was lost in time, were recently discovered in the desert. The charred seeds were discovered at the Halutza site in the Negev during a joint expedition between the University of Haifa's Department of Archaeology and the Israel Antiquities Authority. "The vines growing today in the Negev are from European strains, while the vines of the Negev are extinct. Our next task is to recreate the ancient wine, and maybe through this we could follow its taste and try to figure out what made the wine of the Negev so fine," said Prof. Guy Bar-Oz, Head of the Archaeology Department and the person who led the excavation. The item was cited in several of the local media including [The Jerusalem Post](#).



5

As we reported last week, a first of its kind genetic study confirms the history of the Druze community: The community began to form genetically in the 11th century AD, and there has since been no genetic impact of other ethnic groups on the community. This is according to a new study conducted by a team of researchers led by Prof. Gil Atzmon of the University of Haifa's Department of Human Biology, Prof. Jamal Zidan of the Ziv Medical Center, Zefat, and Prof. Eitan Friedman of the Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer. In addition to the initial media coverage, the story also caught headlines in [The Jerusalem Post](#), [e-Science](#) and [Genetherapy](#), just to name a few.



6

In honor of Valentine's Day which took place last week, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev from the Department of Philosophy, former University of Haifa President and current President of the European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions, gave an interview to *Ha'aretz* in which he said: "It is difficult to find love nowadays because everyone is looking for that perfect someone instead of nurturing the perfect mate; who may not be the one you've dreamed about, but who suits you, is on your wave length and is willing to invest in building a relationship with you. The romantic search method, whether through the Internet or by other means, mainly focuses on the person's traits, and not on the nature of the connection which is actually not clear before a meeting takes place; that is why we need to take the time to nurture a relationship."





University of Haifa | Mount Carmel, Haifa 31905 | tel. 972 4 8240091 | email: dozer@univ.haifa.ac.il